The Middlebury Campus

VOL. CXVIII, No. 12 | MIDDLEBURY, VERMONT, JANUARY 23, 2020 | MIDDLEBURYCAMPUS.COM

College increases some entry-level staff wages

Senior staff report frustrations about resulting pay compression. "How can somebody who's been here 20, or 10 years, just be left in the dust?" said one facilities worker.

By SABINE POUX
Editor in Chief

A month after students protested for higher staff pay, the administration has raised its minimum entry-level wages for some staff positions in the lowest pay bands.

Effective December 30, 2019, the increases affect workers in about 80 existing benefits-eligible positions — jobs in which employees work at least half of a full-time work schedule — and raise the starting rates for numerous open positions, most of which fall in Facilities Services and Dining Services. Previously, staff in entry-level Operations Level 1 (OP1), 2 (OP2) and 3 (OP3) positions made $11, $12.07 and $15.22 an hour, respectively. The new minimums fall at $14, $15 and $16 an hour.

The Campus reported in a series of stories last October that insufficient wages were causing widespread discontent among staff in some of the lowest pay bands, spurring some facilities staff to consider unionizing and creating staff shortages in other areas.

Last month, hundreds of students protested in support of paying staff higher wages. In response, the administration reiterated that it would address such concerns with a compensation review meant to gather market data and make the college a more competitive employer.

That compensation review is slated to finish in late spring. But Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration David Provost said it was already apparent that the review would indicate an issue with entry-level positions. While Provost did not share how many OP1, OP2 and OP3 positions are currently vacant, The Campus previously reported that a large number of

Continued on Page 3

Cook Commons Dean Ian Sutherland departs mid-year

By CAROLINE KAPP
Senior News Editor

Students in Cook Commons received an email on the morning of Jan. 16 announcing the departure of Dean Ian Sutherland. Sutherland joined the college in 2010 and also served as an assistant professor of Classics.

The Campus reached out to Sutherland for comment, but he said he is not at liberty to discuss his situation.

In the absence of a dean, Senior Associate Dean of Students Derek Doucet and Vice President of Student Affairs Baishakhi Taylor will serve together as an interim dean for students in Cook Commons.

"Transitions can be hard and we stay committed to doing our best and minimize impact on students," Taylor said.

"My single biggest priority at this point is ensuring that they, along with all Cook students, continue to receive all the guidance and support they need to thrive here. That's where I'm focusing my energy," Doucet said.

The college has begun the search for Sutherland's replacement. Doucet hopes to fill the role as quickly as possible, while simultaneously ensuring that they find a good and qualified replacement. They are considering both internal and external options. During this transitional period, the responsibility for Cook students will be shared, and students will not be redistributed.

Commons Residents Director Patrick Dayton is working with Doucet and Taylor to guarantee a smooth transition. Dayton feels confident in their ability to provide continual support for Cook students.

Doucet, Dayton and Taylor would not comment on the circumstances of Sutherland's departure, citing confidentiality concerns.

MAX PADILLA/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Students filled Wilson Hall January 15 to watch the Vermont Supreme Court hear oral arguments for multiple cases as part of their 'On the Road Series.'

'It's a slippery slope'

From dining halls to athletic fields, students open up about eating disorders at Middlebury

By SARAH ASCH
Editor at Large

When Courtenay Roche arrived on campus as a first-year in the spring of 2017, she began to develop an unhealthy relationship with food and exercise. The problem worsened throughout her first two years of college, and Roche recalled having less and less energy to devote to friends and extracurricular activities.

"Because I wasn't at home, I was more easily able to engage in bad behaviors that my parents would not have let happen," she said. "Middlebury is a very isolating place. It was very easy to suffer in silence."

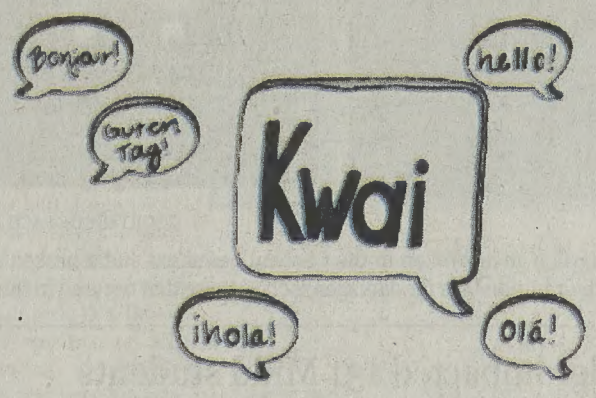
Roche withdrew from school in the fall of 2018 and sought treatment. Once her recovery process was underway, she decided not to return to Middlebury at all. While her decision to transfer was driven by a number of factors, Roche said that Middlebury's culture around dieting and exercise contributed to her desire to leave.

Middlebury can be a difficult place for students who struggle with body image and eating issues. Some students enter college with a history of disordered eating while others develop new unhealthy habits on campus, but many who need help often find on campus expectations about exercise and body types harmful and the college's mental health resources insufficient.

While students spend a lot of time focusing on often-skewed ideas about "healthy" eating and the importance of exercise, there is very little conversation around what happens when those norms go unchecked. Despite the fact that students every year must leave to seek intensive treatment, there is not a common understanding of eating disorders on campus. Eating disorders can impact people of all genders, races, socio-economic back-

Continued on Page 4

School of Abenaki joins language schools in pilot program



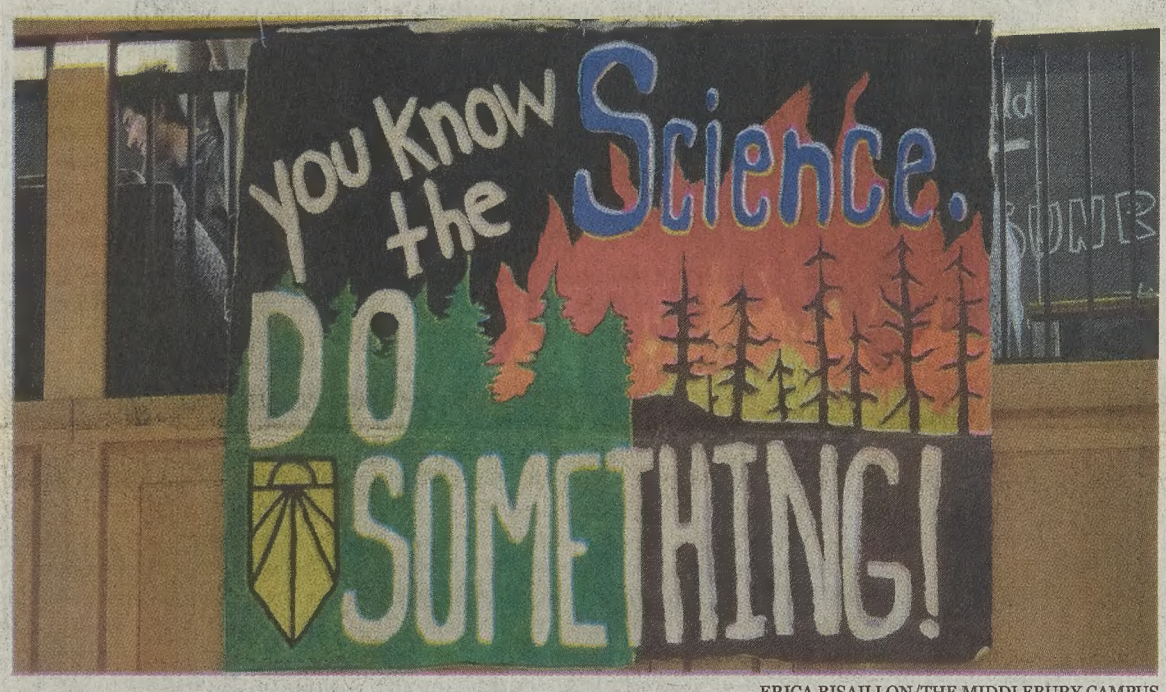
SARAH FAGAN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

By CAROLINE KAPP
Senior News Editor

Abenaki will be among the offerings at the Middlebury Language Schools this summer. Through a new pilot program, the local Eastern Algonquin language will join Spanish, French, Italian, Hebrew, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Arabic, German, Portuguese and Russian in the over 100-year-old Language School program.

The Abenaki language, which is native to New England and Quebec,

Continued on Page 4



ERICA BISAILLON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

A banner dropped in BiHall on December 6 by Sunrise Middlebury. The nation-wide youth movement advocates for action to combat climate change. Turn to Page 2 to read more.

Vermont Supreme Court holds hearings on campus

By SOPHIA MCDERMOTT-HUGHES
Staff Writer

Middlebury became the first college visited by the Vermont Supreme Court as part of its "On the Road Series" when it held hearings for four cases in a packed Wilson Hall on Jan. 15.

"We are very fortunate to have a state supreme court that is so willing and open to bring the court to the community," said Susan Ritter, special assistant to the president and director of community relations, at the start of the hearings. "As President Patton has noted, this offers a rare opportunity for our students and community members to learn more about the Vermont's judicial system."

The court heard a broad array of cases: TC v. LD, a civil case; Progressive Northern Insurance Company v. Muller, an insurance case; State of Vermont v. Darryl M Galloway, a criminal case; and Athens School District et al. v. State Board of Education et. al, a constitutional case which reviewed the validity of the board forcefully merging school districts.

The court releases the decisions for most cases one to six months after hearing the oral arguments, according to Justice Beth Robinson.

The hearings were open to the public, and groups of students from Middlebury Union High School and Mount Abraham High School attended throughout the day.

"I really value the opportunity to include people and help people understand [the Vermont Supreme Court,]" said Robinson in an interview with The Campus. "We get our accountability through transparency."

Retired Vermont Supreme Court Justices John Dooley and Marilyn Skoglund coordinated the hearings held at Middlebury. The two retired justices are also teaching a winter term course this January entitled "State Supreme Courts: How They Work and When They Don't."

Dooley was motivated to teach a winter term class and bring the Supreme Court to Middlebury when he heard President Laurie Patton speak about her wish to make the college a school "of Vermont" rather than simply a school "in Vermont."

The "On the Road Series," which was born through the wish "to help teach civics through [witnessing] an actual court argument and seeing the process," according to Skoglund, seemed to be the perfect vehicle to facilitate a deepening relationship between Vermont state government and the college and impress upon students the importance of the state courts.

While many people follow the national Supreme Court when it comes to issues such as abortion, "day in and day out, 100s of those similar cases are being decided by state supreme courts," Dooley said. Vermont has no intermediate appellate courts, so all appeals go to the State Supreme Court, which hears about 400 cases per year.

Nationwide, 95% of cases are tried in state courts, according to data collected by U.S. Court of Appeal Judge Jeffery S. Sutton in his book "51 Imperfect Solutions." These cases, especially in the state supreme courts, weigh heavily on the lives of the state's citizens, according to Dooley.

"We live in a world where the state has a constitution, the federal government has a constitution and you are doubly protected by both of

Continued on Page 4

LOCAL

Burlington Int'l Airport to expand infrastructure
Page 5

Otter Creek Bakery sees new ownership
Page 5

PODCAST

What do professors think about restaurants in town?
Listen at go/campus

ARTS & ACADEMICS

"InspirASIANal Voices" connects through storytelling
Page 9

SPORTS

No. 5 Men's Hoops outpaced by No. 12 Colby
Page 16

News in brief

Atwater students charged for damages incurred during fall semester

By RILEY BOARD and CAROLINE KAPP
News Editor and Senior News Editor

Following a fall semester wrought with student-caused residential building damages, especially among the buildings of Atwater Commons, students living in many of these residential halls have been charged for the common space damages that were not attributable to specific perpetrators.

"Prior to the Holiday break, all damages were totaled by building. Any damage to which a responsible student(s) had been identified was billed accordingly," Atwater Commons Coordinator MariAnn Osborne wrote in an email to residents of Allen Hall, the Chateau, Coffrin Hall and Atwater buildings A and B. "Any remaining damage was totaled and shared equally among the residents of the area or building. These costs were added to student accounts and labelled as 'damage'."

Damages across all Atwater dorms for the fall semester totaled $5,953.16. Charges across all campus residential buildings were roughly $4,200, $2,700, $3,500 and $6,010 for the 2017–18, 2016–17, 2015–16 and 2014–15 academic years, respectively.

Individual students incurred charges as little as $3 and as much as $40 for these "remaining damages." Some charges were distributed to whole residential buildings, while others were allocated to specific hallways or towers.

Damages in Atwater A and B included the removal of signs and urination in elevators; Allen had several signs torn from the walls; the Chateau sustained broken lounge furniture, urine and scorch marks in elevators, and destruction in bathrooms.

Last fall, a community meeting hosted by Atwater Commons Residence Director Esther Thompson included discussions of financial responsibility for damages in common areas or halls with no identified perpetrator. Students at the meeting expressed disappointment with shared charges like the ones distributed for the Fall semester.

Damage and charges are not limited to Atwater Commons: other halls and buildings on campus are charged accordingly for the cost of destruction maintenance.

COURTESY OF FACILITIES

Left to right: A hole ripped in the hallway of Allen Hall, a chair broken in the Chateau basement and a broken soap dispenser in the Chateau. Students were charged in their tuition bills for damages such as these that occured in the fall.

Health insurance blunder impacted 131 Midd students

By SABINE POUX
Editor in Chief

One hundred thirty-one Middlebury students could benefit from a settlement reached last month between the state of Vermont and a South Carolina insurance company, after the latter sold incomplete health insurance plans to Vermont college students between 2014 and 2016.

The beneficiaries, many of whom have since graduated, had purchased health insurance from the school during those years and had their insurance claims at least partially or completely uncovered by Companion Life Insurance. Instead, these students paid out of pockets for mental and physical health services that should have been covered — among them substance abuse treatments, procedures for athletic injuries and screenings for sexually transmitted infections.

Middlebury students made up more than half of the Vermont students affected by the blunder, probably because the college has a relatively large international student population, according to Financial Regulation Commissioner Mike Pieciak. Often, international students will purchase health insurance from their college because their parents' plans might not have an equivalent in the states, he said.

Piecak said Companion, not Middlebury, is to blame for the situation.

"Middlebury and the other nine higher ed institutes were reliant on insurance professionals," he said. "Rightly so."

Companion, a South Carolina-based subsidiary of Blue Cross Blue Shield, was the only health insurance provider selling plans to Vermont college students at that time. Pieciak said the mishandled claims slipped under the Financial Regulation Commission's radar because Companion did not file its forms with the department during those years.

When the department found out about the incomplete plans in 2016, it mandated Companion retroactively cover the procedures it had not covered until that point. Companion complied with state regulations in the 2016–2017 academic year, the last year in which it was still the college's sole student health insurance provider. Today, students who choose to purchase the provided insurance plan are covered under the National Guardian Life Insurance Company.

About $274,000 of the $1.8 million settlement will be distributed to Middlebury students who come forward about their uncovered claims. The college has contacted those who were enrolled in the Companion plan about seeking restitution for mishandled claims. Other funds will go toward an educational campaign that the state will undertake to educate students about their health insurance options.

Economics major is reclassified under STEM

By NICOLE POLLACK
News Editor

Middlebury now recognizes the economics major as a STEM program, following an internal review of the major's requirements and the growing importance of quantitative reasoning within the department. The decision went into effect retroactively, beginning in the 2018-2019 academic year.

An email explaining the changes, sent to all economics majors in December, said that the new classification better represents the department's "evolving curriculum, its increasingly quantitative coursework, and the purpose of the economics major."

The shift will impact the F-1 visas held by many international students. F-1 students majoring in economics will now be eligible for the 24-month STEM-OPT Extension, which prolongs the standard 12-month stay available to all F-1 students after graduation. The additional year allows students on an F-1 visa more time to find an employer that will sponsor their continued stay.

The college formerly categorized the major under the Classification of Instructional Programs (CIP) code as "Economics, general." It will now be listed as "Econometrics and Quantitative Economics," which qualifies as STEM due to its greater emphasis on mathematical and statistical analysis.

"Nearly all of our classes incorporate quantitative-type analysis," said John Maluccio, chair of the economics department, "so it's a better description of what we're doing in the department."

Student inquiries about the nature of the major last year led the Economics faculty to explore economics programs at peer institutions, many of which are considered STEM and have comparable curriculum to the courses taught at Middlebury. The department voted unanimously to change the CIP code for the major, a decision then approved by the college.

Maluccio emphasized that the economics department has not seen dramatic changes to its course offerings in recent years. "This is not about changing who might be taking economics," he said. "It's much more about—okay, you're in the major, these are the things we're doing, let's give it a more appropriate label within the Department of Education." He does not expect the change to impact enrollment in the major.

Sunrise Movement takes action at Middlebury

By ERICA BISAILLON
Contributing Writer

Student members of Sunrise Middlebury dropped banners in Davis Family Library and McCardell Bicentennial Hall at the end of the fall semester to stand in solidarity with the climate strikes organized by Sunrise Movement hubs across the country. The national youth-led climate organization focuses on fighting for climate justice.

Sunrise Middlebury organizers aimed to highlight the urgency of the climate crisis, writing, "Grades don't matter on a dead planet" on the sign dropped at Davis Family Library on December 5, and, "You know the science. Do something!" on the one dropped in Bicentennial Hall on December 6, in an effort to bring the focus back to the future.

"By dropping these banners and disrupting the normal flow of people in these spaces we could emphasize the importance of immediate climate action," said Victoria Andrews '23, a student organizer. Andrews said Sunrise Middlebury hoped to bring attention to their presence on campus.

Fearing that in an academically rigorous environment like Middlebury, students preoccupied with grades and classwork may not prioritize climate justice, Sunrise Middlebury wants to educate students and hold them accountable for the future of the planet.

Students recieve scam emails and phone calls disguised as PubSafe

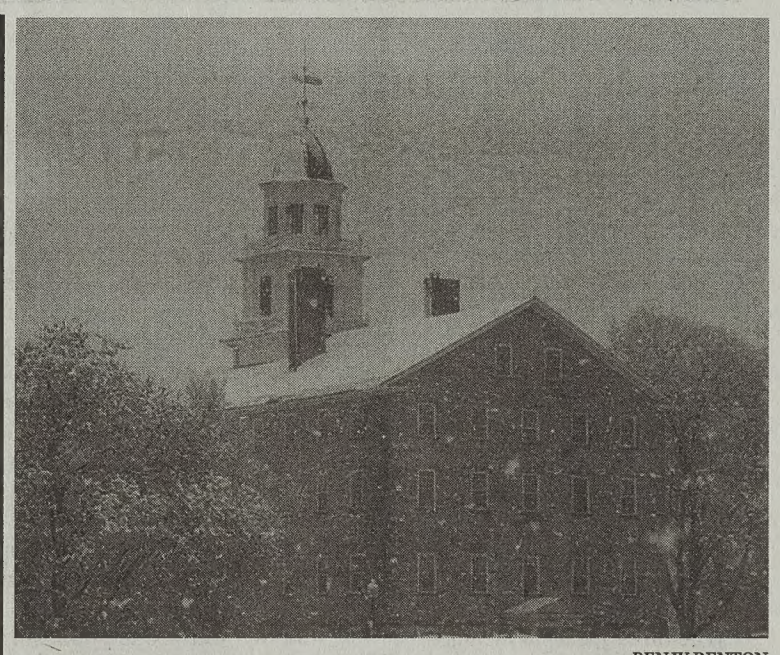
By ANNABELLA TWOMEY
Contributing Writer

Numerous students received fake Public Safety emails and phone calls over Winter Term from an individual posing as Lisa Burchard, director of public safety. The emails told students that there was an emergency and asked for their phone numbers. Follow-up phone calls then requested that students go to court and pay a fine.

Burchard became aware of the situation after hearing that a few students had received such emails from a sender titled "chiefpolice202@gmail.com." The emails were signed from Burchard.

"In this situation, the investigation revealed that the sender's goal was to use my name to make contact with students and request money by threatening arrest and asking for bail money through the scam," Burchard said. Students quickly reported the emails and calls to Public Safety, who notified Middlebury's ITS Information Security team. ITS located similar emails from three other Gmail accounts and removed the scam email from the accounts of approximately 100 students. Affected students were notified of the scam and informed of the steps ITS took to remove the emails.

Burchard said the email phishing attacks came from outside of the college's network. In order to prevent further scams, "ITS is evaluating the re-introduction of "external sender warnings" at the top of emails sent to student mailboxes," Burchard said.



BENJY RENTON

Old Chapel dusted in a fresh coat of snow as students navigate their Winter Term courses, unique offerings that undergo a throrough approval process.

The annual creation of an unconventional J-Term catalog

By CECELIA SCHEUER
Senior Writer

"J-Term, play term," Middlebury students joke. Taking one course for the entire month of January offers students plenty of time for fun alongside unique academic opportunities, but the planning that takes place behind the scenes is not so simple. Deciding which courses to offer, as well as who gets to teach them, is a process that requires extensive vetting and interdepartmental approval.

Beginning in April, the Curriculum Committee, composed of four elected faculty members, the dean of curriculum and a representative from the registrar's office, reviews hundreds of course proposals from faculty members and visiting instructors wishing to teach a Winter Term class the following January. The committee tries "to balance offerings across the curriculum to provide a relatively equal distribution of courses offered across areas," said Dean of Curriculum Suzanne Gurland.

"We want to bring in some variety relative to what is typically taught at Middlebury," Gurland said. "Sometimes chairs or directors will make recommendations on what they have identified as a specific need for students that they could not necessarily fulfill in another one of their department's own courses."

According to Gurland, there is no set number of courses that a faculty member must teach during Winter Term. "In terms of requirements, it can be fuzzy," she said. "We say to chairs and directors that part of their responsibility is to distribute teaching equitably in their department and to fulfill the department's responsibility to the college-wide curriculum." Some professors may teach a Winter Term class every year, while others have not taught one in several years.

With so many proposals and such limited space, not all course proposals can be accepted. "Every year we get a ton of great proposals from prospective visitors, and the hardest part is saying no to them," Gurland said. "When it's members of the regular faculty, the assumption going in is that we're not going to say no to a faculty member."

While faculty members' proposals are almost never explicitly denied, Gurland said the committee often requires that minor — or major — tweaks be made to a proposal before approval. "In some cases it's three or four rounds of emails until we can come to a consensus on an agreeable, workable, course," Gurland said.

These adjustments are not always received enthusiastically. "Sometimes a professor will say that an edit has completely changed the meaning of their course," Gurland said.

Faculty can also apply to teach courses that fall outside of their departments, if their expertise spans multiple disciplines. In such instances, faculty must also receive approval from the department in which they want to teach. Gurland said it is more common for professors to apply to teach "interdepartmental" courses.

Christal Brown, the chair of the college's dance department, consistently teaches a course outside of her department. Brown worked with MiddCORE, an entrepreneurship-based leadership and innovation program, for four years before being asked to serve as the director of the program.

But as low-stress as winter term tends to be, teaching high-intensity classes like MiddCORE during such a short time span can pose challenges for professors.

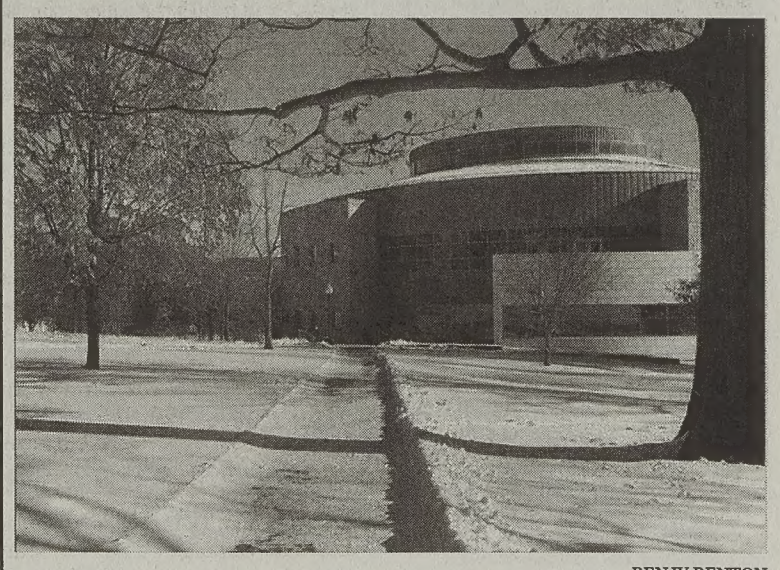
"When you have four weeks, you have to be so clear about how you're spending your time," Brown said. "You have to cover three weeks of work, in a week, every week. That can either be super overwhelming, or integral to how you spend your time — which I think for a lot of people, if you haven't taught outside the usual structure, is daunting."

For visiting instructors, the review process takes on a much different form. In addition to the course proposal, the visiting applicant must submit a curriculum vitae, resume, "or description of background and experiences relevant to the course you are proposing," according to the Middlebury College website.

Each year, the committee receives applications from prospective visitors from all different walks of life. "Some applicants are professionals out in the world, some are practitioners, some have never taught before, and some are academics," Gurland said. Gurland said that some form of teaching experience is almost always a necessary prerequisite for course approval.

Jeanie Bartlett '15 and Katie Michels '14.5 are teaching a course this winter titled "Food, Farms, Future: Vermont," which draws together their work in Vermont's agricultural sector with many of the concepts highlighted during their Middlebury experience.

"Whenever I'd make those connections between what I was learning through work and what I had learned at Middlebury, it just started to plant the seed for coming back to give a talk or maybe teach a J-term class," Bartlett said. "So when I realized one of my best friends was also thinking of teaching a J-term class, I asked if she'd be willing to team up."



BENJY RENTON

Davis Family Library after the first snow of the winter.

Student-organized symposium addresses global effects of settler colonialsim

By ABIGAIL CHANG
SGA Correspondent

Speakers probed themes of settler colonialism and its impact in three different regions during a student-organized conference titled "Bodies at Borders: The Lived Effects of Settler Colonialism." The annual Student-Organized Global Affairs Conference took place in Wilson Hall on Jan. 13.

The three speakers included Dr. Marie Cruz Soto, a professor at the NYU Gallatin School of Individualized Study, who explained the process and impact of settler colonialism in the Puerto Rican archipelago; Dr. Thomas Abowd, who teaches at Tufts University and discussed the colonization faced by Palestinians; and Miwok journalist, activist and media producer Desiree Kane, who talked about the colonization of Native American land and the intersectionality of the issues faced by American indigenous communities.

Conveners Kamli Faour '21, Cara Levine '20 and Mari Odoy '20 started the approval process for the conference in October and began planning in November. Levine found all three speakers who attended the conference.

She reached out to the author of a relevant article on JSTOR, who referred her to Cruz Soto, and heard about Abowd through a friend at Tufts. She found Kane listed among the speakers at a Princeton University conference.

"The huge emphasis of this conference is that it's global," Faour said. "What we were doing was we were looking to fill three different regions as best we could."

This year's conference took place earlier than usual as the organizers wanted to ensure that Faour could attend the event prior to her departure for a semester abroad.

Attendees of the event sat at eight tables arranged in front of a podium in Wilson Hall. These tables later became the location of seven different break-out discussions, facilitated by a Middlebury professor or conference speaker. Students, faculty and Middlebury residents participated in the discussions, drawing on personal experience as well as information they had encountered in the classroom.

Cruz Soto, the first speaker, gave a talk entitled "Strategic Spaces, Disposable People." Born in San Juan, Puerto Rico, she dove into the history of colonialism in Puerto Rico, beginning with Spanish colonialism in the 16th century and progressing to its present-day status as an unincorporated U.S. territory.

Soto explained the U.S. Navy's expropriation of the island, which facilitated the forced relocation of the original residents to the island's center. She displayed maps and pictures of this relocation while highlighting the role persistent civil disobedience played in the U.S. decision to recall the Navy from the island in 2003.

"Civil disobedience is not just protesting. It's making things unworkable, not letting the status quo be the status quo," she said.

Abowd, the Tufts professor, spoke about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and addressed how identifying the conflict as settler colonialism is an approach often met with surprise and hostility. Abowd discussed how the Palestinians were pushed off their land, referencing specific cases such as the destruction of the Palestinian enclave near the Western Wall in Jerusalem, and showing maps and images to further illustrate his point.

The final speaker of the conference, Kane, played pieces of the documentary she had worked on, which follows Native American protesters of the Dakota Access Pipeline. She spoke about many of the challenges faced by women in Native American communities and attested to the intersectionality of many social justice issues. Kane called on her audience to fight against class systems in a speech that addressed both physical and non-physical borders, and called attention to the borders that divide different movements for change.

Kane also mentioned that she had reached out to the Abenaki tribe, whose land Middlebury College rests on, before coming to the summit.

At one table, attendees discussed the Mexico-United States border and their relationship with it, as well as redlining, non-physical borders and white privilege. For the most part, those seated at the table shared their own experiences with borders in the context of the topic "Border as Method: The Proliferation and Power of Borders."

One of the students at the table, Rand Jibril '20, described the presence of borders growing up in Palestine. She explained how the border impacts certain aspects of everyday life.

"Simple stuff like sleepovers that you can't do when you're a child, you don't think, 'This is because of the border,' she said.

Jibril explained how she does not feel there is enough discussion about the border and settler colonialism on campus.

"That's why I applaud the organizers of this event. I think we need to talk about it more," she said. "I don't think it comes up enough, whether it's in classes or between students."

Stickers advertising white supremacist organization found on campus and in town

By RILEY BOARD
News Editor

Three stickers promoting a white supremacist organization appeared on campus and in the town of Middlebury during the first week of Winter Term. Some stickers linked to a white supremacist website through QR codes. All stickers have since been removed, and the Department of Public Safety (DPS) began an investigation into the dissemination of the stickers.

The stickers were found on a sign on the outside of the McCullough Student Center, on the outside of the Center for Community Engagement building, and at a Jewish organization in town that asked not to be identified by name.

The stickers came to the attention of the Community Bias Response Team (CBRT) through a submission in their online reporting system (go/bias) and through the observations of staff and faculty members.

The CBRT announced the incidents through a student-wide email on Jan. 10. "The views of hate groups, even in the absence of direct action, still cause harm and foster an environment where members of our campus community feel unwelcome or unsafe, especially given ongoing efforts to promote hate and violence within our larger culture," the email read.

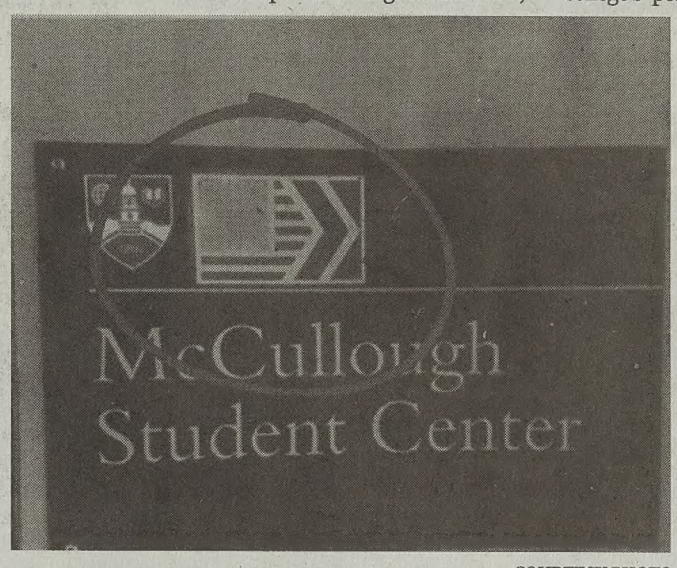
The stickers include a QR code that links to the website of an organization identified by the Southern Poverty Law Center as a white nationalist hate group, as well as the group's logo. This group has organized campaigns to disseminate their stickers and other promotional materials across the country.

In the all-campus email, the CBRT chose not to identify the group. "We recognize that one of the goals of such organizations is to provoke a reaction and thereby increase the attention the organization receives," the email reads.

"One of the main goals of these organizations is to provoke outrage, which leads to different kinds of situations," said Renee Wells, the college's director of education for equity and inclusion and a member of the CBRT. "They often provoke institutional statements about those incidents, which then get more widely circulated and are used for publicity by the organization."

This is not the first time that Middlebury's campus has been the target of campaigns by white supremacist oragnizations. In the spring of 2018, fliers with pictures of the confederate flag and Bible verses, also advertising white supremacist organizations, appeared in the Davis Family Library, as well as in several other Vermont public and university libraries.

"There's a pretty intentional and sustained effort by these kinds of organizations to target college campuses, so I think we're always going to be one of the potential targets that exists," Wells said.



COURTESY PHOTO
Several students posted and shared photos of the stickers on social media, circling the QR code that could be used to access the white nationalist group's website.

Paul Flores Clavel '22 witnessed one of the stickers. "It's disappointing but not surprising," he said. "I think we forget Middlebury isn't immune to white supremacists."

Wells notes that while the stickers mark a small incident, their connection to an organization whose ideologies have been tied to acts of hate and violence is impossible to ignore.

"It's important to know that things like this happen all over the place and they're not reflections of the institution, the place where it happens, but rather a part of larger cultural tensions and movements," Wells said.

In response to the incident, the CBRT hosted a Restorative Circle on the night of Tuesday, Jan. 14. Typically, circles allow spaces for those who have been harmed and those who have caused harm to meet and communicate, although in this case, because the poster of the stickers has not been identified, the circle was simply a space for those impacted to discuss the situation.

"There's not much that you can do in terms of prevention, but we can certainly condemn them, whether it's someone from campus or someone external," Wells said of the decision to host the circle. "We can condemn it, we can be mindful of the impact."

DPS has opened an investigation into the posting of the stickers, because their nature and location violate the college's policy on decency and vandalism.

"Stickers placed in this manner are an act of disrespect of college property as well as unlawful mischief, commonly known as vandalism," Lisa Burchard, director of public safety, said.

At this time, DPS has interviewed the staff members who found the stickers, but has not been able to identify a responsible person. They believe that the stickers were placed over December break.

Plans to roll out security cameras in locations across campus by the end of this academic year could increase the likelihood of identifying people responsible for events like this.

"In the future, there may be a camera near an entrance, and it may contain video footage of an incident such as this one," Burchard said. "Posting hate material that is designed and intended to intimidate members of our community is a violation of our college policies."

Administrators are reviewing a security camera policy right now. Burchard says that the policy has been drafted in a way that will allow DPS to review footage when it related to situations of safety, security, violations of law and violations of college policy.

ERICA BISAILLON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
NYU professor Dr. Marie Cruz Soto discussed the US Navy's expropriation of Puerto Rico during the end of the 20th century and the power of civil disobedience. Cruz Soto was one of three speakers at the student-organized 'Bodies at Borders: The Lived Effects of Settler Colonialism' conference on January 13.

Pay increases for newest staff cause wage compression, leaving senior workers feeling frustrated, left behind

Continued from Page 1

openings in certain departments have put significant strain on college staff.

Provost also said the administration thought raising wages now would send a strong message about the college's priorities, one he feels has been reiterated by various groups across campus, from the student-led protest to conversations at faculty meetings.

"The messaging I was hearing from faculty, staff and students was that this is our top priority," Provost said. While the college has known it would need to address low pay for a long time, the extensive support for higher wages allowed it to circumvent "a lengthy conversation about prioritization" and to commit those dollars now.

When asked where the college found the money for the wage increases, Provost chuckled. "I haven't yet," he said. But since the budget for fiscal year 2021 goes into effect this July, the college will only need to find extra funds to tide itself over for half the year. Any changes made following the spring compensation review will be factored into the new budget.

Provost explained that the college determined the amounts for the wage increases based on market data from comparable positions in the area. The college had originally only committed to reexamining OP1 and OP2 jobs, but included OP3 wages in its adjustment as pay increases excluding OP3 would have placed OP2 wages only 22 cents below OP3 rates.

Pay compression

Every staff member The Campus interviewed for this story said they were glad to see the college raise at least some wages earlier than expected, but many are concerned that those changes only impact employees in entry-level positions. The raises create an issue known as pay compression, in which more senior employees who have received incremental annual raises for years will not receive raises because their wages exceed the new minimums — sometimes only slightly.

Waste management/custodial employee Brenda Hansen has been working at the college since 2001. Over the last 19 years, her pay has increased to $15.78 an hour.

Hansen's job is classified in the OP2 band, in which the new entry-level minimum rate is $15. She said she feels she has "fallen between the cracks," and thinks the college should have refrained from increasing entry-level wages until it could increase wages for all employees in the affected pay bands.

"People are going to be starting in here making 78 cents less than what I have been making," she said. "I'm dedicated employee. I've worked hard."

When she inquired about pay compression in an email to the Office of Human Resources, Hansen was told the college is aware of the issue and will make decisions on the matter following the compensation review, in "several more months." The email emphasized that the college had to focus its efforts on starting salaries first to "attract and retain" employees.

Provost told The Campus he thinks addressing compression pay will be an important next step for the college.

"The next couple months for the people in that compression area are going to be difficult," Provost said. "I'm going to ask for their patience. And I hope that our ability to do this now shows that this is what we want to do."

Atwater Dining cook Patti McCaffrey said the administration told staff at a meeting last fall that it would probably have to look at compression issues soon. She said Executive Director of Food Services Dan Detora also acknowledged pay compression would be a problem when he visited the dining halls the morning before the announcement about the wage increases was made.

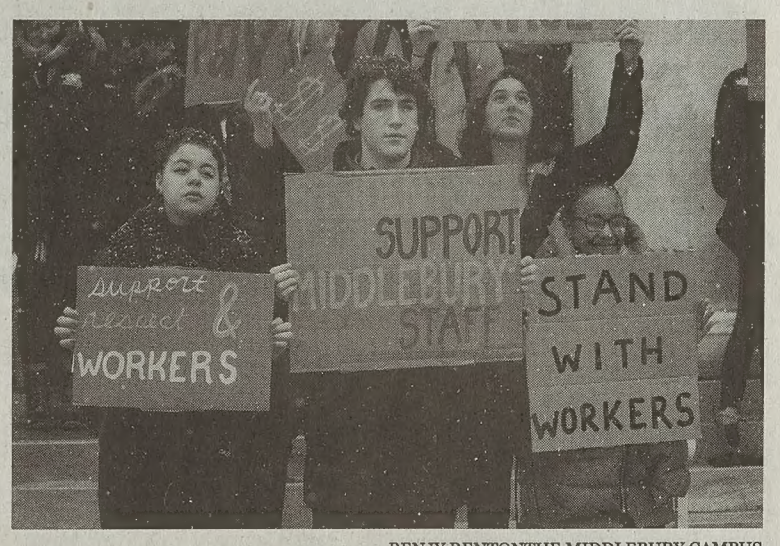
Landscape worker Todd Weedman is somewhat optimistic that the college will address compression come spring.

"I think a lot of people are upset about compression, and I understand that and I get it," Weedman said. "But I know they're working on it. I'm willing to take them at their word for it and I think we will see something as we move forward."

Others, frustrated by what they identify as repeated patterns of bad communication, are not confident the administration will raise their wages. One facilities employee, who asked to remain anonymous for fear of retribution, is concerned that the administration's decision was just for show. He did not receive a wage increase because he was earning slightly above the increased minimum in his pay band.

"That email is all smoke and mirrors," he said. "It's a decoy. Because now students think the college followed through and everyone's happy."

Staff largely credit students for putting pressure on the administration to address wages. In multiple interviews, they repeatedly brought up how grateful they were for students' displays of concern. One of the co-organizers of the December student-led protest, Celia Gottlieb '21.5, said she does not feel the change adequately addresses underlying institutional issues.



BENJY RENTONTHE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Before break, students protested in favor of higher wages for staff. Administration cited these protests as an important factor in the recent wage increases.

"It is a shame that this issue has only seen progress after student involvement," she said in an email to The Campus. "This is an issue staff members have raised for the past three years without making much headway." Gottlieb and others said this is a start on a longer road toward better staff treatment.

Many workers, like Facilities Service Floater Isaac Larocque, say the change indicates more broadly how the college treats its long-term employees.

"Seniority doesn't really mean anything," he said. "How can somebody who's been here 20 years, or 10 years, just be left in the dust?"

The Campus will continue following the story as the college moves forward with its compensation review.

Managing Editor James Finn '20.5 contributed reporting. Photos by Benjy Renton '21, Sadie Housberg '21 and Nora Peachin '21.

Editor's note: The Campus has granted anonymity to a number of sources in a series of stories about staff pay and treatment. Granting anonymity is not a practice we take lightly, but we feel the sensitive nature of the subject matter and some employees' fears for retaliation warrant anonymity in these cases.

Eating disorders, disordered eating shape the lives of many students

Continued from Page 1

grounds and ages. In addition to those with formal diagnoses, many students experience "disordered eating," a term used to describe a range of irregular eating behaviors that may or may not warrant a specific diagnosis.

For many students, the way peers talk about food and beauty standards creates unhealthy expectations regarding body appearance. Abby Blyler '19.5 began struggling with an eating disorder the summer before high school. She feels that Middlebury amplifies harmful standards about body size.

"Our culture is so fatphobic and I think that's hyperprevelant here," she said.

Blyler, who left campus to attend a residential treatment program last fall, said this can manifest in conversations between students about how much they eat and exercise, or comments that frame food as a reward for exercise rather than a daily necessity.

Quinn Boyle '21, who recently wrote a widely shared op-ed in The Campus about her experience, said that for her, coming to Middlebury exacerbated an issue with which she was already struggling.

"Middlebury has a very perfectionist culture, and because society believes that skinny bodies are perfect and fit bodies are perfect, not only do we want to do 110% in our academics and extracurriculars but we want to do 110% when it comes to the way we look," she said. "I got really sucked into that."

Many students said structural factors that can make college challenging for students with eating disorders. This includes having to navigate dining halls, where the public nature of eating and food can be an issue, according to Boyle.

"I was really socially isolated," she said. "I couldn't really do meals with people, I either ate in the dining hall alone or I ate in my room and I lost a lot of friends. It was really horrible."

A lack of resources for mental health

The counseling staff at Parton Health and Wellness Center are generalists — they are able to help students who struggle with disordered eating until the issue has reached a certain level of severity, according to Gus Jordan, the executive director of health and counseling services.

"We treat eating disorders very much like we do any serious medical or mental health issue," he said. "Last summer, I had all our staff go through a day-long eating disorder training with two specialists from a clinic in Boston."

Jordan explained that part of the training was geared toward assessing whether students need more support than therapy every other week can provide. For students experiencing more severe symptoms, the college may not be able to offer sufficient care to help them start or continue recovery.

The level of care the college is able to provide to students has been impacted by a surge in students seeking mental health services on campus, The Campus reported last spring. Jordan said that demand has risen drastically in just a few years, which reflects a larger national trend.

"Five years ago we were capable of seeing every student who wanted care weekly," he said. "We now have difficulty providing every other week therapy. My staff are carrying caseloads that are twice the size as they were five years ago in trying to manage all the people that are looking for care."

This shortage of counselors means students who need more regular therapy to treat an eating disorder might not be able to schedule appointments frequently enough to help them. In the long term, Jordan explained, this kind of under-treatment can do more harm than good for people struggling.

"If you provide inadequate or too low a level of care relative to the severity of the condition, what you're doing is you're helping the student practice their eating disorder without it getting better," he said. "In other words, if I'm providing once a week therapy, or every other week therapy, to a person who really needs intensive outpatient treatment, then they may be using the therapy to keep their head above water while they are practicing their eating disorder and so they are actually getting worse during that time."

The lack of resources on campus leads some students to seek solutions elsewhere. However, in a rural setting like Addison County, the options around the college are also limited.

Amy Rice, a local dietician who frequently works with Middlebury students who have eating disorders, said that it can be challenging for patients to assemble the team they need, which usually includes a dietician, a therapist and a doctor. Rice explained that there are more options and more variation for those seeking care in the Burlington area, but traveling an hour each way for multiple appointments a week is often an unrealistic option for Middlebury students, especially for those without access to transportation.

Receiving care from professionals in town can also come with a hefty price tag.

"It was so hard to find people that would take my insurance," Boyle said. "Being on the school's insurance means that most people are not in-network with whatever health plan Middlebury provides. So then going through the process of talking to your insurance companies and then talking to your provider like your therapist or your dietician and coming up with a number you can actually meet is super difficult and stressful, and on top of that you still have to pay money out of pocket."

Boyle and other students interviewed for this article expressed a desire that the college hire more specialists, such as a nutritionist or specialized eating disorder counselor.

Jordan said he also hopes to one day have a nutritionist at the Parton, either as a full time staff member or on a part-time basis. He explained that there was a part time nutritionist at Parton in the early 2000s, but very few students made appointments so the college decided to redirect funds used for the position elsewhere.

"But that doesn't mean it wouldn't work now," he said, pointing to the increase in the overall use of mental health services since then.

Boyle said access to a nutritionist on campus would be a good first step. She also believes the college should hire or bring in a specialist to run a support group for students who are struggling with disordered eating.

Eating disorders and athletics

While eating disorders impact students across campus, being an athlete can present unique challenges for students trying to recover. This is especially true for students with teammates who struggle with similar issues. Blyler plays for the women's soccer team, and said that in her experience, the environment on sports teams does not always facilitate healthy habits.

"Every season I have overheard or witnessed teammates expressing the desire to lose weight, become more toned or go on a new fad diet. You have people eating a Proctor bowl worth of food for their whole dinner," she said. "To me, that just shows how little education there is around health and wellness. We live in such an active community, we need to be properly fueling ourselves."

Part of the problem, Blyler said, is that teammates do not always talk openly about the issue.

"People don't want to say, 'I had an eating disorder.' Instead you see what they eat," she said. "Teams have meals together all the time. So you're just like, 'Oh my god she's eating just a salad, should I be eating that?' Especially for people who may have a greater tendency to fall into that stuff it's such a slippery slope."

Rory Kelly '19, who ran for the cross country and track and field teams while in recovery from an eating disorder, said that being an athlete changed her relationship to her recovery process.

"There were a lot of toxic things going on about food and body image on both the men's and women's teams," she said. "I was in a lot of conversations about mental toughness and being kind to yourself and pushing yourself and where that line is."

For athletes struggling with eating, there is often little their coaches and trainers can do to help them. While many coaches are aware this issue exists for their athletes and want to help, there are few resources for coaches to learn how to approach this topic. Kelly said this problem goes beyond Middlebury and exists in sports at large.

"There's no good training out there for coaches on how to step in," she said. "[Our team] did feel comfortable talking about how to get faster, but balancing taking care of ourselves and also doing that thing called school .... The area that's still lacking is in the moment [when someone is struggling], you have to buck up and step in and have a difficult conversation."

Nicole Wilkerson, the head coach for both the men's and women's cross country teams, expressed frustration with the lack of information available to coaches about how to help an athlete struggling with an eating disorder. In the past, Wilkerson has brought speakers in to help educate her team on this issue and how to take care of themselves. But she said that when it comes to specific cases, it is hard to know what to do.

"There's not a clear avenue to say hey you need to do x, y and z in order to be able to compete, in order to return to practice," she said. "It's just trying to tackle this on our own."

According to Blyler, athletes often worry that if they tell their coaches about their eating disorder, they will be benched — or that if they start the recovery process in season, it will hinder their performance.

"How do you navigate healing and navigate getting help when you don't necessarily feel like you need to get treatment, and you're in the middle of a season, and you're trying to outcompete your peers? How do you do all that?" she said.

The cost of leaving for help

The help Parton can provide to struggling students includes weigh-ins — regular appointments to check if a student gaining or losing weight in relation to medical recommendations. However, Jordan said that the health center cannot guarantee the accuracy of the results, given that students are not monitored to ensure they are not tricking the scale like they may be at a facility that specializes in treating eating disorders.

If a student appears to be at risk of serious health consequences from their eating disorder, counselors at Parton will start talking with students about taking a leave of absence.

"We take action when there is imminent risk to a person," he said. "That's when we ask and say, 'you might have to go home.' We might involve parents or a dean."

Rice said that for students facing worsening symptoms, she believes it is often better to take time off and get more help than Middlebury and the surrounding area are able to provide.

"If they need those bigger centers or that higher level of care the question becomes is it in their best interest, is it better for them to take a semester off versus struggle trying to manage college and their eating disorder for the duration of their college experience?" she said.

For students, the decision to leave can be an incredibly difficult one. Many expressed that they reached rock bottom before they were willing to admit they needed to seek more intensive treatment. Blyler reached that point last November.

"It got to the point where it was infringing on my everyday. I couldn't do school work," Blyler said. "I was sleeping through so many things and I was socially isolating and trying to hide it from everyone."

For Blyler, the decision to leave school came with significant financial implications, which is the case for many students contemplating a medical leave of absence for residential treatment. In addition to potential loss of tuition money for the semester a student withdraws, treatment programs for eating disorders can cost tens of thousands of dollars a month.

Blyler was able to negotiate for her college insurance plan to pay for 90% of her treatment last fall, but that still left her with a $6,000 bill.

"I was like, I don't have that," she said. "My parents aren't financially involved – they don't pay for anything and I have to pay for college, too."

Blyler ultimately received a grant from a foundation to cover the rest of her treatment.

Boyle's situation was also complicated. Her family cannot afford the cost of treatment, and Boyle said that she would not be able to recover living at home, leaving her with very limited options. Boyle said that she was ultimately able to access treatment because a friend's family took her in and paid her medical expenses.

"I'm really lucky that this family is giving me financial support right now, if they were not I would not be able to get any help whatsoever," she said. "I could have died if they hadn't been there. It was so bad."

Boyle also expressed frustration that she had not been able to access more regular therapy and appropriate medical treatment earlier, while she was still on campus, which she feels may have kept her disorder from worsening like it did.

"It's really shameful that Middlebury does not provide those resources," she said. "Not only does it set kids back mentally but it sets you back financially and it makes it way harder for you to recover and it really does disproportionately affect kids from low incomes who can't support themselves or don't have family to support them."

After spending several months in treatment, Boyle recently re-applied to be allowed to come back to Middlebury for the spring, and last week she was given permission to return.

"I'm not cured by any means but I'm better than I've been," she said. "Middlebury provides routine, it provides stability, it provides a home where I feel like I belong, and I have an entire treatment team currently in Vermont."

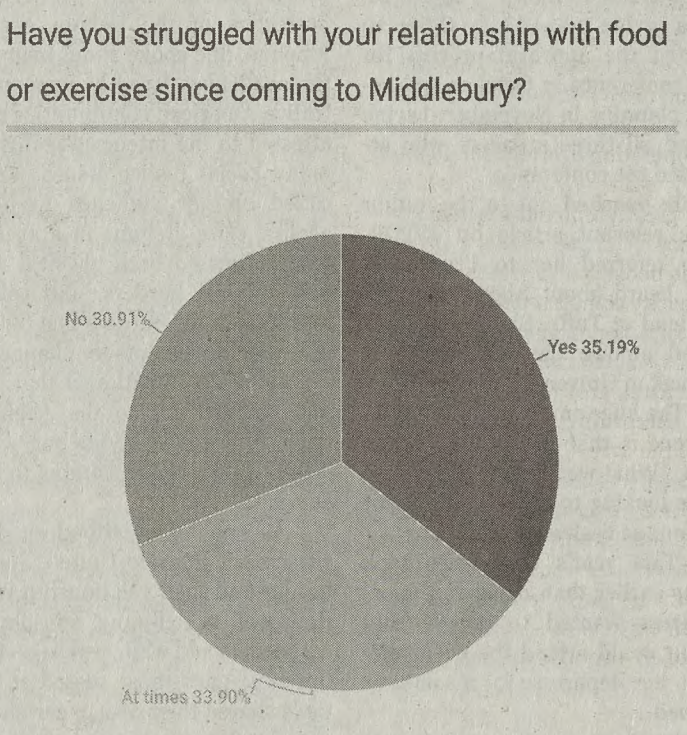
She hopes that Middlebury will take steps to change the culture on campus and make more resources available to students.

Jordan said one thing he believes the school can do to help combat the broader problem is institute more preventative measures. He feels that educational programming through the Health and Wellness Office will have a positive impact on campus culture.

"To me that's where the energy needs to go because I don't think we can treat ourselves out of these situations," he said. "We need to do much more preventative work."

Blyler said that one of the best things students can do is destigmatize eating disorders and learn how to talk about them responsibly.

"It needs to be not so taboo because I know so many people who are so afraid to talk about it," she said. "[But] if you pick five random people on this campus they will all say at one point in their life they have struggled with this to some extent."


Have you struggled with your relationship with food or exercise since coming to Middlebury?
No 30.91%
Yes 35.19%
At times 33.90%

BOCHU DING/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

In this year's Zeitgeist survey, nearly 70% of students reported having some struggles with eating or exercise during their time at Middlebury.

New school of indigenous language to combine language instruction, cultural learning

Continued from Page 1

Canada, is considered endangered. Dean of Language Schools Stephen Snyder hopes that the introduction of the language to the schools will allow Middlebury to play a role in preserving and honoring local Abenaki culture.

Jesse Bowman Bruchac will serve as the director of the School of Abenaki. Bruchac is a citizen of the Nulhegan Abenaki Tribe and has spent his life studying and teaching Algonquin languages. He is one of the only remaining fluent speakers of Western Abenaki, according to his curriculum vitae.

Bruchac works tirelessly to revitalize a variety of Eastern Algonquian languages. His efforts include the creation of WesternAbenaki.com, a site that shares podcasts, videos, a dictionary and language lessons. He has also run free summer language immersion programs, runs a Western Abenaki YouTube channel and facilitates a Facebook group for language learners.

Bruchac has lectured and taught at universities, including Dartmouth, Harvard, Princeton and Yale.

Two assistant language instructors will join Bruchac, along with a variety of guest lecturers and other cultural experts. But Bruchac is also working to take advantage of the skills and knowledge of his students so that they can help instruct each other in language and cultural practices.

"In Jesse Bruchac, we have an extraordinarily able and enthusiastic partner who will teach us as much about immersion learning and cultural transmission as the Language Schools may be able to teach him," Snyder said. "It has the potential to be a beautiful collaboration."

The School of Abenaki will take advantage of Middlebury's proximity to Abenaki tribes by supplementing language learning with cultural activities. Activities may include basket making workshops, drumming, storytelling and traditional crafts, as well as a possible visit to a nearby Abenaki cultural center. Students will also learn to play games, some of which are drawn from hundreds of years of gameplay in what Bruchac called "Ndakinna" — the Abenaki name for New England. "Being within Ndakinna, our homeland, will be a tremendously powerful reminder of the connection of our language work to the land that surround us," he said.

President Laurie Patton envisioned the idea for the new school when Bruchac, accompanied by Abenaki Chief Don Stevens, played the flute and offered an invocation in Abenaki at last spring's commencement ceremony. Bruchac has also given several lectures at the college. Patton and Bruchac began to discuss plans for the new school this fall.

Because of the program's status as a pilot school, it will only run two weeks (other language schools run seven or eight weeks) and will have 20 students (other schools which have 50-200). Despite its pilot status, the school's immersion style and Language Pledge will mirror the other languages programs.

Snyder expects students to come into the school with varying experience with the Abenaki language. "The interaction and peer teaching that happen among speakers of varying levels in the school's community are some of the great advantages of the Language Schools model," he said.

Bruchac said that the response from interested students has already been overwhelming. "Within the first day we had many more applicants than spots to fill," he said.

"Thanks to ongoing revitalization work, and the number of applicants we've already had, we can select the very best speakers and strongest candidates from the Abenaki language community," Bruchac said. He hopes that some of the 20 students may be future teachers who can help the School of Abenaki further grow and develop. He believes the Middlebury Language Pledge will help students and teachers focus on their conversational language skills.

"The Language Schools have always looked up at the global horizon and tried to bring together cultures from all parts of the world, yet we have never engaged with the rich opportunities offered the language, cultural and people who have traditionally inhabited the space we now occupy," Snyder said.

Bruchac believes that the School of Abenaki will help grow public awareness and contribute to the preservation of Abenaki language and culture.

'On the Road Series' comes to Middlebury

Continued from Page 1

them," said Dooley. "A decision of the state supreme court on a state constitution could be more important to you than what happens in Washington."

In the 2018 fiscal year, the Vermont state courts heard 51,000 cases, not including 93,000 traffic cases, according to the Vermont Judiciary Annual Statistical Report published in fall 2018. The number of cases has steadily increased over the years, according to Dooley. He estimates that the courts heard 55,0000 cases in the 2019 fiscal year.

With a population of roughly 624,000, according to the US Census, Vermont's ratio of cases to people is nearly one to 11. When including traffic cases, that ratio jumps to almost one in four.

"Usually, cases have at least two people, sometimes more, so you can see how much the state courts affect people," said Dooley.

While the hearings and winter term class aimed to educate students and community members on civics, Middlebury College and its community were not the only beneficiaries.

"[Interacting with students] is very invigorating for us. It's a fairly monastic job working at the Supreme Court," Robinson said. "We don't have a lot of social interaction, so being able to be with such smart engaging people, it makes me feel a little better about the future."

Burlington Int'l Airport to receive federal funding to aide expansion

By HAEUN PARK
Staff Writer

As Burlington International Airport (BTV) celebrates its 100-year-anniversary, it is projected to receive a $10 million federal grant in the fall of 2020, which will be used to expand the size of the airport's main terminal.

In a press release last November, U.S. Secretary of Transportation Elaine L. Chao said that the $10 million grant is part of a $485 million federal investment in American airports, "[to] address safer airport operations, fewer airport delays, and greater ease of travel for air travelers."

For Burlington International Airport, these improvements will come in the form of an 18,000-square-foot expansion to centralize the two existing Transportation Security Administration (TSA) checkpoints into a single facility. Creating a conglomerate TSA checkpoint would require less personnel, according to Vermont Federal Security Director Bruce McDonald.

"Running two checkpoints requires probably 20% more people than it takes to run just one that has four or five lanes," McDonald said. "You get a much more efficient operation during surges. It puts all of our eggs in one basket, and it greatly enhances screening efficiency."

This boost in the TSA's screening capacity comes at a much needed moment for the airport. In recent years, BTV has experienced a significant growth in passenger traffic. According to a VTDigger article, the arrival of Frontier Airlines to BTV's air service providers, upgrades in aircraft size among all airlines and new non-stop flights to Denver and Orlando resulted in a 14% rise in total passengers. The new expansion would meet the needs of an airport that is expected to continue to grow into the decade.

"At the present, the two separate checkpoints causes an immense strain because we have eight, sometimes nine flights compressed within an hour in the early morning," McDonald said. "At some points, especially during the summer and fall, we're running at 20–30% over capacity. You just simply can't keep up."

Presently, the airport's two checkpoints are able to process an estimated 300 passengers per hour. In comparison, a centralized facility could process close to 800, Deputy Director of Aviation Nicolas Longo told Seven Days.

Many frequent travellers out of BTV, like Ella Kim '22, will benefit from a faster security screening process.

"The $10 million grant allowing for expansion would continue to allow us out-of-state students to get through the airport with ease," Kim said. "It would remove a lot of stressors in being able to fly home. Anything to make the airport better would be great, and if that comes in the form of faster TSA checkpoints, I love to hear it."

Aside from the expansion to its main terminal, the airport is also pursuing other projects related to infrastructure and innovation. This March, Dew Construction is set to break ground on airport property for a new 108-room Fairfield Inn by Marriott hotel. BTV is also developing a new walkway connecting the north and south terminals and completing the third and final stage phase of improvements to its Taxiway G. In the meantime, the grant is expected to be confirmed fall 2020, which would allow construction to begin either late this year or early spring of 2021.

"I would say the expansion is a boon to the entire community including TSA," McDonald said. "It's a great thing, and we've needed it for years."

COURTESY PHOTO

Burlington International Airport will receive a $10 million grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation, used to fund a terminal expansion project. Airport administrators hope the addition will alleviate lines at security checkpoints and reduce the amount of personnel required for passenger processing.

COURTESY PHOTO

Current projects at Burlington International Airport include the construction of a new Marriott hotel. Construction on airport expansion is expected to begin late 2020 or early 2021.

Otter Creek Bakery maintains essence among changing leadership

By HATTIE LeFAVOUR
Local Editor

Otter Creek Bakery, a bastion of baked goods and cardinal coffee counter in the town of Middlebury since 1989, is preparing to take its first steps without the guidance of founders Ben and Sarah Wood. After serving as the business's right and left hands for more than thirty years, the couple has sold the culinary mainstay to Middlebury native and Bowdoin graduate Ned Horton. With the purchase, the new owner is taking on a unique challenge: preserving the bakery's beloved core while bringing new flavor to its edges.

"We're real old-school," said Sarah Wood, who arrives in the kitchen at 3:30 a.m. each day to start baking. "I mean, we've been doing the same thing for 33 years. I think we definitely need a little, y'know —"

"Dusting off," said Ben Wood, her husband, who also works in the kitchen daily to marshal Otter Creek Bakery's savory items.

This is just what Horton intends to do. Although beloved staples like their West Coaster sandwich and chunky cookie selection aren't going anywhere, Horton plans to augment the menu with new savory breakfast items, specialty coffee vendors, and gluten-free and vegan options. He also hopes to undergo construction to expand indoor seating and is considering a heated outdoor area for wintertime use.

"A group of us worked on a plan to help make a transition," said Horton. "We need to understand everything about it that makes it so successful and why everybody loves it so much."

"Yep," added Sarah Wood, apron-clad, as she bobbed between trays of fresh croissants and cinnamon-blanketed dough. "We're just supporting the transition until we get fired."

Aiding in the switch is new manager Chiyo Sato, who previously worked under the Woods for three years as a baker and was brought back as a familiar face with new ideas. A dependable employee who knows the ropes, she is looking forward to helping the bakery move forward.

"Chiyo's a different generation that has things she wants to try for sure," said Horton.

MAX PADILLA/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Last fall, Otter Creek Bakery's previous owners, Ben and Sarah Wood, handed over the 34 year old establishment to Ned Horton. With new leadership, Horton hopes to retain the essence of the well-loved bakery, with potential expansion projects and menu updates.

"She's great," added Sarah Wood.

Sato, a cheerful, purple-haired 29-year-old who offers wide smiles from under a baseball cap at the counter, knows all of the Otter Creek Bakery regulars. She is also glad to have each of the old 13 full- and part-time employees remain on staff through the transition, and her presence provides peace of mind to owners both new and old. The Woods, who have worked in synchronic rhythm in the kitchen for three decades, are currently training Sato in fulfilling the many roles it takes to run the bakery.

"It's your typical small business," said Ben Wood, to which Sarah added, "You have to have ten trades."

This is not to say that Sato will take it on single-handedly, however. Although Horton will not be doing any kitchen work, he plans to bring on several new staff members to assist with baking and working the deli under Sato's leadership. Horton is also seeking part-time help for the summer rush and is considering bringing on a full-service waitstaff after special expansions, though he wants to be careful to preserve Otter Creek Bakery's notoriously all-hands-on-deck operations.

"Everybody is interacting with the customers. If somebody's waiting in line –" Horton said, to which Sato finished, "Any one of us back here will step up to the plate, y'know?"

For many, the allure of the establishment comes from this formula: familiar service plus familiar food. Many of the couple's recipes have gone unchanged over the last three decades and have continued to bring in regulars. The Woods have even made wedding cakes for couples — and then, years later, the couples' children.

"We have people coming in two, three times a day for thirty years, so we pretty much know everybody," said Ben Wood, who is as dedicated to his regulars as they are to the bakery. "When people didn't pick up their special orders for Christmas because it was snowing hard, I just put them all in the truck and just dropped them all off," he laughed, adding, "I'm like, okay. If you can't come, I can drive!"

Another time, the bakery made a custom cake for a local man who then took the confection to Albany. Shortly after he picked it up, Ben said, "He calls me up and he has a special favor to ask. He said, 'I think I left the door unlocked to my house. Would you go over and lock it for me?'" So, naturally, Ben took a break from work, drove to the man's house and locked up for him.

"This is a full-service bakery, by the way!" laughed Sarah.

Although Horton intends to keep favorite features like the devoted staff (and the honey-cornmeal scones, of which Sato lovingly says, "It's like eating the top of a corn muffin. Just the top."), he also hopes to bring a little extra energy to the space.

"I'd definitely like to see some music playing both inside and outside," said Horton, who was once given a WRMC show as a local Middlebury 10-year-old.

For the Woods, Horton, and Sato, it's crucial that the Otter Creek Bakery keep its substance. Even through the menu additions and special reconfigurations, the biggest change will be the absence of Ben and Sarah Wood's welcoming faces. After having been found behind the counter and in the kitchen pouring themselves into their second home for the last three decades, they haven't quite said goodbye. For now, the couple will continue to train new employees until they're sure the bakery can stand on two feet.

Vermont Gas shoots for zero emissions by 2050

By JACK SUMMERSBY
Contributing Writer

Vermont Gas Systems, the state's sole provider of natural gas, announced a plan last year to eliminate all greenhouse gas emissions from its operations by 2050. The company also unveiled plans to double energy efficiency savings, outlined strategies to reduce home and business emissions and promised to continue sustainable partnerships in communities around the state.

Vermont Gas is one of the state's largest utility companies and serves about 50,000 customers in the residential and commercial sectors. Along with Green Mountain Power, Standard Solar and Northern New England Investment Company, Vermont Gas is owned by the Northern New England Energy Corporation (NNEEC), a subsidiary of Quebec-based company Énergir.

While the 2050 emissions goal was the headline announcement from a press release on Nov. 14 of last year, Vermont Gas also provided details on additional elements of its strategy to "transform the company." The company has announced a "cornerstone strategy" to double energy efficiency savings by 2025. This task will be put into motion with the help of a $20 million investment. Much of this budget is expected to go toward home weatherization, which will improve heating efficiency so that local energy usage can be reduced. The average homeowner will save about $200 per year after weatherization, according to the press release.

"VGS has been a strong partner in supporting Vermonters with low and fixed incomes and we know they'll continue to be," said Jan Demers, executive director of the Champlain Valley Office of Economic Opportunity, in the VGS press release. "Weatherization is an important way to reduce costs for Vermonters. We appreciate this balanced approach to make steady environmental progress while pledging ongoing support for those who need it most."

The plan also calls for an increased focus on renewable natural gas (RNG), which is produced by processing natural methane, derived from waste materials. By 2030, the company aims to have 20% of its retail customers using energy supplied by RNG, adding about 2% per year to steadily ramp up production. The gradual transition is also intended to keep costs low for consumers, according to the company.

COURTESY PHOTO

Vermont Gas Systems, in partnership with Middlebury College and Vanguard Renewables, started construction on an anaerobic digester at Goodrich Family Farm last summer that will produce renewable natural gas (RNG). The utility company plans increase its focus on RNG as part of its mission to become zero emission by 2050.

Vermont Gas explicitly mentioned its partnership with Middlebury College and Wellesley, Massachusetts-based Vanguard Renewables in its November press release. An anaerobic digester is currently in production at Goodrich Family Farm in Salisbury to produce RNG, which will flow into a Vermont Gas pipeline. The college announced that the digester, the first of its kind, will provide energy to heat about half of its Vermont campus upon completion. President Laurie Patton applauded the program as a major leap toward the college's goal of using 100% renewable energy sources — one of the goals in the Energy 2028 plan.

"Another exciting aspect of the digester is how it further connects the College to the local community and Vermont," said Laurie Patton in the press release. "The College's interest in pursuing the facility also reflects our longstanding commitment to innovative environmental education and sustainability projects. Building on our carbon neutrality initiative, it will provide our students and faculty with new research and teaching opportunities."

The final components of Vermont Gas's plan for sustainability include district energy systems (DES) and a "Net Zero Home" pilot program. District energy systems are networks of underground pipes that provide thermal energy to heat buildings more efficiently. Vermont Gas has planned one such system in Middlebury and another in Burlington in partnership with the Burlington Electric Department.

Vermont Gas's Net Zero Home pilot program is the final element of its long-term plan. It is a proposed incentive for residential customers to achieve a net-zero carbon footprint. The pilot is currently being co-developed with Burlington Electric and focuses on an "action plan" personalized to residential consumers. Such plans would include recommendations like weatherization, heat pump installation, renewable natural gas usage, electric vehicles and upgraded efficient equipment.

Reactions to Vermont Gas's strategy and pledged commitment have been mixed. Peter Walke, deputy secretary of Vermont's Agency of Natural Resources, said that his agency welcomed the company's announcement to reduce emissions, while the larger impact of the announcement is yet to be seen.

"We want to understand the details more so we can understand what it might mean for direct emissions and other related policy matters," Walke said. He also explained the importance of sustainable practices not addressed by Vermont Gas. "Other Vermont fuel suppliers have begun to diversify their products and services, primarily by introducing bio fuels and wood pellets," Walke said. "These are great steps that need to be brought to scale."

In general, Walke expressed the need for "significant reductions in emissions across all sectors of the economy."

Middlebury resident and community advisor to the Sunday Night Environmental Group (SNEG) Fran Putnam expressed concerns with Vermont Gas's announcement. "One thing about [Vermont Gas's] advertising that I particularly object to is selling themselves as a way to lower customers' carbon footprint," said Putnam, who cited a New York Times article discussing the emissions of methane leaks at natural gas facilities. "In fact, some studies seem to show that because of the methane leaks from drilling and distilling as well as leaks along the pipelines, natural gas may have an even worse effect on the climate than oil." On the utility company's zero emission timeline, Putnam concluded that "2050 is far too late" and that 2030 would be a better projected date.

SNEG member and intended Environmental Studies major Victoria Andrews '23 explained that Vermont Gas' plan is insufficient in addressing pressing environmental issues. "By 2050, half of the species on the planet could be extinct and climate change's effects could be irreversible," she said.

Andrews said that while Vermont Gas's announcement is admirable, a "more aggressive" timeline is needed. When asked about additional sustainable solutions that corporations could pursue, she mentioned removing barriers to more renewable sources, implementing local environmental initiatives and incentivizing recycling and composting to reduce net carbon footprints. "Although these changes are small," Andrews said, "I think basic routine shifts in the workplace can evolve to sweeping change and make business more environmentally friendly."

After the company's November press release, Vermont Gas's President and CEO Don Rendall posted a New Year's message for the company's customers. "By 2030, we expect an annual reduction of over 187,000 metric tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions as compared to our emissions today," his message announced, adding that "we embrace this future, and we stand with our partners, old and new, in the fight against global climate change. Together, we believe, our future is bright."

Zuckerman challenges Scott in race for governorship

By HATTIE LeFAVOUR
Local Editor

Lt. Governor David Zuckerman announced Monday that he will run for governor of Vermont in 2020 in an effort to oust incumbent Governor Phil Scott. Zuckerman, a progressive who has served as lieutenant governor since 2017, will join former Vermont Education Secretary Rebecca Holcombe on the Democratic ticket. Zuckerman cited the climate crisis as his primary motive for entering the race, claiming that Scott's moderate republican approach has been insufficient.

"I think the urgency of our climate crisis has not really been felt in the political process," Zuckerman said in an interview with Vermont Public Radio last week. "When we talk about the climate crisis, we can also talk about economic opportunity and investing in our future."

Although Governor Phil Scott, who has served in the position since 2017, has not formally announced his candidacy for the 2020 race, but his team has started fundraising operations and his entry is likely. A markedly popular governor who, according to Morning Consult, currently enjoys a 65% approval rating for his center-right ideology, Scott would be seeking his third two-year term. He most recently defeated Democrat Christine Hallquist, the first openly transgender candidate for governor in America, by a comfortable margin of 14.9 points in 2018.

The first challenger to Phil Scott for the 2020 election was Rebecca Holcombe, former Vermont Education Secretary, who announced her candidacy in July. Originally appointed to the position in 2013 and reaffirmed under Gov. Scott upon his election, Holcombe resigned in March 2018 in protest of Scott's education agenda, which included a voucher program she believed would deepen inequality across the state. Now, she is running against him.

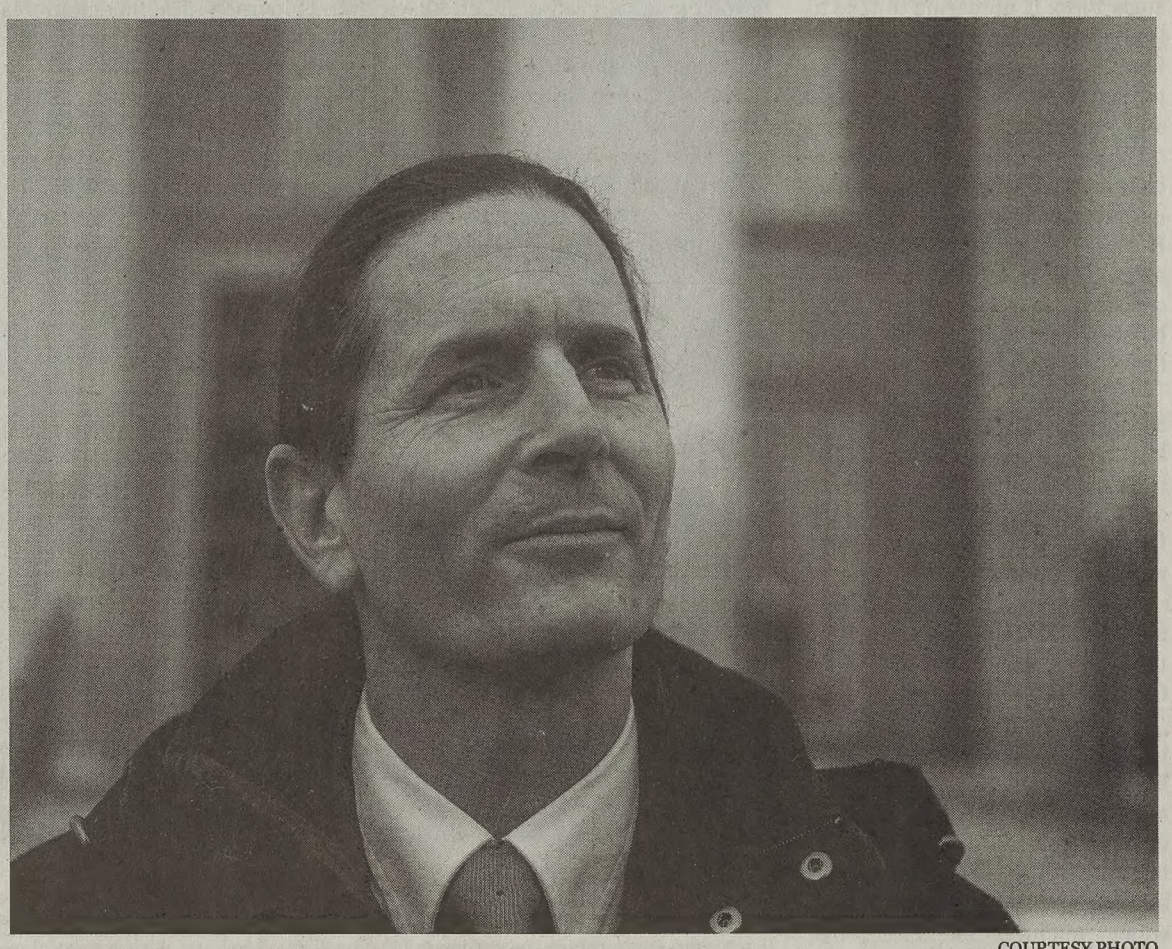
"I want to put it to work for every Vermonter in every corner of the state – not just the areas that are already doing well," Holcombe told Seven Days after her announcement. "I'm gonna win by showing everyday working Vermonters that it's not enough to talk."

Zuckerman and Holcombe will face each other in Vermont's gubernatorial Democratic primary later this year. If Gov. Scott officially enters the race, it is all but assured that the popular incumbent will represent the Republican party, though lawyer and farmer John Klar has also announced a bid for the nomination. Like Zuckerman and Holcombe, the political neophyte is running on the assertion that Gov. Scott's moderate approach has been lackluster, though Klar believes the missing factor is traditional Republican values. "Vermont's state government has grown unwieldy and wasteful," Klar's website reads. "In order for Vermonters to thrive economically, these swollen tax and regulatory burdens must be lifted."

As these candidates vie for the top seat in Montpelier, a queue has already formed to fill Zuckerman's lieutenant governorship position. Most notable among them thus far is the Vermont State Senate's President Pro Tem Tim Ashe, a Democrat who was first elected in 2008 and has led the governing body for three years. After spending 2019 advocating for a $15 minimum wage and abortion rights legislation, Ashe seeks to use the new position to focus on "revitalizing small communities, trying to lift more people out of poverty."

Also running for the lieutenant governorship are progressive activist Brenda Siegel, who was defeated in the gubernatorial Democratic primary in 2018, and Republicans Meg Hansen, Dana Colson and Dwayne Tucker. The race may continue to grow as many other potential candidates announce their campaigns publicly.

Although technically the second in command, the title of lieutenant governor is mostly ceremonial and not as policy-oriented as the governorship. Vermont is just one of two states, alongside New Hampshire, that holds gubernatorial elections every two years instead of four — and does not have term limits for top positions, allowing Gov. Scott to run indefinitely yet leaving significant room for challengers.



COURTESY PHOTO

Lieutenant Governor David Zuckerman, in a challenge to incumbent Governor Phil Scott, cited the climate crisis as a primary motive for running.

From the left, Gov. Scott has garnered some support for banning bump stocks, passing pro-choice legislation and frequently criticizing President Trump. However, the same groups have condemned the Governor for other times wavering on these issues and taking a leisurely approach to the climate crisis. He has avoided passing sweeping legislation and was quoted in fall 2019 saying that going forward he is "not looking to come out with something dramatic," despite a recent poll from the Vermont Public Research Interest Group that shows 76% of Vermonters are worried about global warming. Both Zuckerman and Holcombe plan to capitalize on this discrepancy.

Zuckerman has proposed a marginal tax surcharge for Vermont's wealthiest residents, the money from which he plans to allocate toward weatherization, solar panels and grants for working-class residents to access environmentally-friendly resources such as lectric cars.

Likely to back such measures is Independent Vermont Senator and 2020 Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders, who has endorsed Lt. Gov. Zuckerman in past elections. Although Sen. Sanders has yet to comment on the race at hand, Zuckerman has already endorsed the senator's bid for president. The pair's relationship dates back more than 30 years, and they have often aligned on initiatives and worked alongside one another in office. Sen. Sanders also helped Zuckerman campaign in the past. In a fundraising email blast from 2018, the Senator shared a 1992 photo of himself and Zuckerman and wrote, "We need leaders like him who fight for what is best for all of us, not just the wealthy and corporations."

It is speculated that Sen. Sanders's corresponding presidential campaign will bolster Lt. Gov. Zuckerman's chance at defeating Gov. Scott with the hope that the politicians can align on the ballot in November.

"Win or lose," Zuckerman told VTDigger, "It's important that we get out there, we talk about these issues, and we put them on the front-burner."

THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Sabine Poux
MANAGING EDITORS
James Finn
Bochu Ding
NEWS EDITORS
*Cali Kapp**
Riley Board
Nicole Pollack
LOCAL EDITORS
*Benjamin Glass**
Hattie Lafavour
Lucy Townend
Ariadne Wills
OPINION EDITORS
Diana Diaz
Chellsa Ferdinand
Owen Marsh
ARTS & ACADEMICS EDITORS
*Sarah Boyle**
Rain Ji
Elsa Korpi
Owen Mason Hill
SPORTS EDITORS
*Miguel Espinosa**
Heather Boehm
Jack Kagan
Erin Kelly
EDITORS AT LARGE
Sarah Asch
PHOTO EDITORS
*Max Padilla**
Van Barth
Soph Charron
Shirley Mao
CARTOONS EDITOR
Sarah Fagan
DIGITAL DIRECTOR
Amelia Pollard
LAYOUT EDITOR
Lily Laesch
AUDIO EDITORS
Caroline King
Jeremy Navarro
VIDEO EDITOR
Augie Schultz
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR
Estelle Martin
ONLINE EDITORS
Tenzin Dorjee
Kari Henken
Taylor Phillips
Emmanuel Tamrat
COPY EDITORS
Dani Skor
Lucy Townend
BUSINESS MANAGER
Kacey Hertan

*Senior Editor

The Campus reserves the right to deny publication of all or part of a submission for any reason. This includes, but is not limited to: the making of assertions based on hearsay; the relation of private conversations; the libelous mention of unverifiable events; the use of vulgar language or personal attacks; unwarranted requests for anonymity.

More information about the paper and its submission policies can be found online at www.middleburycampus.com.

The opinions expressed by contributors to the Opinions section, as well as reviews, columns, editorial comics and other commentary, are views of the individual contributors and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the newspaper. The Campus welcomes letters to the editor at 250 words or less, or opinions submissions at 800 words or less.

@MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

@MIDDCAMPUS

THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

The crisis in Iran: An oppressive regime and its voiceless people

op-ed

Niki Kowsar is a member of the class of 2021.

What has unfolded since the morning of January 3, 2020 has been incredibly difficult for me to unpack as an Iranian-born Canadian citizen and a U.S. permanent resident. To summarize the sequence of events, the United States, under President Donald Trump launched an airstrike that killed Iranian General Qasem Soleimani, the leader of the Quds Force, sparking an escalation in tensions between the Iranian regime and the U.S.. Iran then launched over a dozen missiles to two Iraqi bases housing U.S. troops. Four or so hours later, a Ukrainian passenger plane, UIA Flight 752, crashed in Tehran after take-off. After initially blaming the crash of engine failure, the Iranian government admitted to mistakenly launching a surface-to-air missile (some reports now say two missiles were launched).

To put it simply, the recent events involving the Iranian regime have been overwhelming. Although I am against escalating tensions in the Middle East, the narratives of Soleimani and the Iranian regime presented in western media, specifically concerning Soleimani's popularity and the general opinion of the Iranian people, are entirely false. It is disheartening that world powers economically involved with Iran have turned a blind eye to the Iranian regime's ongoing abuse of power and attempts to silence its opposition. The powerful individuals within the Iranian regime are not humans: they are monsters who must be held accountable for all the pain and suffering they have caused their innocent people and those affected by Soleimani's actions outside of Iran.

I am adamantly against the current regime and its treatment of the Iranian people. My family would not have had to leave Iran if the regime allowed its citizens to practice their human rights. As my father likes to say, "there may be freedom of speech, but there is no freedom after speech." The Islamic Republic of Iran consists of a broken government, economic disparity and minimal human rights, where the Ayatollahs and the rich become richer and the rest are left to suffer. I have always wished for the fall of this disgraceful regime, and hope the death of Qasem Soleimani could be the beginning of the end.

Soleimani, who dictated Iran's foreign policy, was the second most powerful man in the country. He was personally sanctioned by the U.S., the European Union, and the United Nations, and the U.S. even deemed him a terrorist. Until his death, many of you may not have even heard his name. But to many Iranians, he was either seen as a "selfless hero" or a murderer. Soleimani's minority of supporters was made up of regime sympathizers who favored expansionism and military interventionism in hopes of returning to the glory Iranians once enjoyed during the Persian Empire.

Under Soleimani's leadership, the Quds Force has been responsible for the deaths of hundreds of thousands of civilians in Syria, Yemen, Iraq, Lebanon, and Afghanistan, as well as hundreds of U.S. soldiers in the region. The Islamic Republic's financial and military support for its proxies and allies is alarming because it has placed greater importance on power over the condition of the Iranian people.

"One head off" by Nikahang Kowsaw, the writer's father and a political cartoonist, was originally published in Quillette Magazine.

The Iranian regime declared the days that followed Soleimani's death national days of mourning, closing businesses, workplaces and schools during that period. Protests erupted in some cities with Soleimani supporters chanting "death to America." The Iran state media outlets released videos of the streets of major cities packed with black-clad mourners. The funeral procession for Soleimani eventually led to a stampede that killed 70 mourners and injured over 100 other people.

It is difficult to gauge the reactions of Iranians living in Iran because of the restrictions on communication within the country. A prominent tweet reposted by Shaun King, an outspoken civil rights advocate and journalist, claimed 82% of Iranians inside the country looked favorably upon Qasem Soleimani. This statistic originated from a 2019 study conducted by the University of Maryland's School of Public Policy. This data was collected by interviewing 1,000 Iranians inside the country via phone interviews. The methodology of this study is problematic because it is a common belief in Iran that the government has all phones tapped, so how could Iranians comfortably express their true opinion over a presumably tapped phone?

A more credible study done in 2018 by the Group Analyzing and Measuring Attitudes in Iran (GAMAAN) surveyed over 19,000 Iranians, 80% of whom lived inside Iran, through a secure online survey platform shared via social media networks. Only 0.2% of respondents said they would vote for Qasem Soleimani in a free election. While I understand that not all of Soleimani's supporters would vote for him for president, these findings are an indicator of Soleimani's perceived popularity among Iranians.

Prominent American news media outlets have brought on foreign policy experts and political analysts to weigh in on the escalating tensions with the Iranian regime, deafening the public to important matters at hand. Republicans have proudly supported the "accomplishment" of Trump in ordering the airstrike that killed a terrorist. Democrats have expressed their fears of what the regime and its allies may do, and have focused on how the crisis is Trump's way of diverting attention from his impeachment.

Since the UIA Flight 752 crash, U.S. media coverage has diminished because the crisis no longer appeals to the U.S. public or the political agenda of U.S. politicians. But the crisis in Iran is not just a political matter: it is a matter of human rights and holding a corrupt regime accountable. These events remain relevant to millions of innocent Iranians who continue to live through the dire conditions, even if they're not deemed important enough to be covered by U.S. media.

In a recent interview, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi was asked whether she supported the protesters in Iran. She diminished the majority of protesters opposing the regime by focusing her response on protests involving Solemani's supporters because they were "protesting against the U.S.." Pelosi's disregard for the majority of Iranians is a representation of how the Iranian people have been treated by foreign governments, which have disregarded the regime's oppression of the Iranian people's rights.

The IRGC has a long history of hindering the Iranian people's right to freely express their opinions: most recently, over 1,500 were killed during the November 2019 unrest protesting the exponential spike in fuel prices. Since the regime's admission of guilt to their role in the UIA Flight 752 crash, thousands of protesters have flooded the streets of major Iranian cities, chanting "Shame on you" to the IRGC forces and calling for Ayatollah Khamenei to step down. The IRGC's response? Firing tear gas and sometimes shooting and killing its own people.

Irrespective of international response, the Iranian government will continue to silence its own people with excessive force throughout these protests because this crisis has placed them in a vulnerable position. During these trying times of conflict, I ask you to go after the facts and to not be afraid to question what your favorite politicians may say. Evidence surrounding these events will continue to come out, and the Iranian people will continue to risk their lives by sharing damning evidence on social media platforms displaying the regime's troubling actions in hopes of uncovering the truth that the regime frequently tries to hide from the world. Innocent Iranians have suffered far too long and deserve to be heard. The Iranian regime refuses to give a voice to the voiceless, so as a free society, we must hear those who are trying to speak up.

How Middlebury College can help Vermont workers

op-ed

Dan Golstein '20, Emma McKee '23, Chloe McNamara '23 and Ife Onuorah '23 are members of Middlebury HannaforDignity.

One of the first things that a new student notices upon joining the Middlebury community is the common fidelity to social justice. Students and staff alike are characterized by their attentiveness to imbalances and iniquities, and by their audacious plans to fix them. Such altruistic concerns for the fundamental improvement of society are seldom constrained by borders – Middlebury students tend to think big, paying attention to the issues facing communities far outside of our own and deploying the greatest degree of empathy to innovate effective solutions. Yet, as individuals so engaged with the pursuit of a better future, it is easy to get wrapped up in the bigger issues and miss the problems – and solutions – that are right in front of us.

Say it's a Thursday night. Hungry, you and your roommates bundle into someone's Subaru and drive to Hannaford's. You buy cookie dough, some chocolate milk, and a bag of shredded cheese to devour in your room at 3am after a disappointing night at Atwater. It may seem outlandish to say that by doing this, you've unknowingly endorsed the continuing violation of undocumented worker's rights. Unfortunately, this isn't far from the truth.

Dairy products account for almost 65% of Vermont's agricultural sales, and the most recent statistics show that Addison County alone spent $505,426,000 on dairy products in 2017. [1] Yet, despite the significance of dairy farming not only to Vermont's economy, but also to the state's identity, many of those employed to undertake this vital labor are not being treated with the respect or dignity they deserve. Facing inadequate wages, unscrupulous hours, a lack of access to bathrooms and sufficient accommodation, as well as a shortage of first aid kits despite many instances of injury and illness - many migrant farm workers have seen their undocumented status exploited. Hannaford's - the supermarket chain with over 200 stores in the northeastern United States, including one in Middlebury - continues to supply products from these dairy farms. By turning a blind eye to the hardship and inhumanity faced by undocumented dairy farmers in Vermont, Hannaford's continues to implicate its customers in the exploitation of the hard-working people on whom we rely for our everyday produce. Needless to say, this is unacceptable.

In 2014, Burlington-based group Migrant Justice launched a campaign to secure Vermont's undocumented dairy farmers the humanity to which they are entitled as contributors to our economy, as members of our communities, and - above all - as human beings. Milk With Dignity (MWD) has been immensely successful: world-famous ice cream company Ben & Jerry's committed to adhere to the movement's Code of Conduct by the end of 2017, [2] bestowing workers at over 70 farms with the rights and protections that they had previously been denied. [3] In 2019, Migrant Justice launched the campaign to urge Hannaford's parent company,

EMMANUEL TAMRAT

Ahold Delhaize, to join the MWD program, striving to continue the extension of these positive impacts to migrant farm workers throughout the northeast. The company has not yet agreed to join the program.

In awe of the work Migrant Justice have done, we want to help further the Milk With Dignity movement. Our campaign - HannaforDignity - believes the best way of doing this is by mobilizing the support of the Middlebury College community. Many students come from outside of Vermont, or even from outside of the United States, and for all Middlebury has become a home. We owe a debt of gratitude to this state - and to those who work tirelessly to uphold its unique identity. This issue sits right on our doorstep, and we have the ability to help change it. We believe that by mobilizing the vivacious passion for social justice ascribable to the Middlebury College community, culminating in an official endorsement from the college, we can significantly increase public awareness and support for the MWD movement. Ultimately, we hope that this surge in support will help secure Hannaford's commitment to adhere to the Code of Conduct in order to both protect its reputation and serve its community.

We owe it to Vermont's undocumented dairy farmers to defend their rights with the same zeal with which many of them sought to find a better life in the United States. Rights for our workers, humanity for our farmers - HannaforDignity.

Please join the movement at go/hannafordignity. It is also Solidarity Week; to find out more go to go/solidarity.

Taking sex off the table

sex panther

***Sex Panther** writes on all things sex, love and hookup-related at Middlebury.*

About two weeks ago, I was catching up with some friends from home and we got to talking about our love lives. I won't bore you with the details, but the first conversation I had was with a friend who was telling me about the boy from her new "situation-ship". She had known him for a while and the two finally went on a first date. When the date was over, they returned back to this house where they proceeded to hook up. While they were hooking up, my friend stopped to say that she wasn't ready to have sex. Her date instantly became distant and cold. When I spoke to her two days after their date, she felt unsure as to whether or not she regretted saying no to having sex. By choosing to not have sex, even though that was clearly his expectation for the night, she felt that she had messed up her chance to be with him.

And just a few days later, I talked to another friend about her current "situation-ship." The boy she was seeing had recently gotten out of a serious, long-term relationship that began in high school. After going on dates for about a month, they were now trying to move beyond goodnight kisses. Once they did, they found it challenging being more intimate. The more they kept trying to have sex, the more it just did not work. She felt like she was doing something wrong, and he felt like he was letting her down. When I asked her whether it was important that they have sex, she responded that it was not; she felt like having sex was something they ought to do. We got to talking about how many times we've said yes to having sex because it was expected, not because it was something that we decided we actually wanted. Just how many times have we adjusted our expectations to fit the other person's?

The advice I gave my friend was to take sex off the table. We both expressed that it felt like once we had lost our virginity, we had inadvertantly broken the seal and suddenly sex was expected almost every time we hooked up with someone. We lamented the days when there was a seemingly linear progression of intimacy: the first kiss, then going a little farther than kissing ... and, well, you get the picture. My friend's partner probably felt an immense amount of pressure. She was the first person he'd had sex with since his long-term girlfriend; not only did he want to make her happy, but he also did not want things to end because of their intimacy problems. Being with him was more important to her than having sex right away, and taking sex off the table meant they they could get more comfortable with the idea of building emotional intimacy — and from there, sexual intimiacy.

Ultimately, you're allowed to have whatever relationship with sex that you want. There is a lot of pressure to form a relationship with sex that is casual and devoid of intimiacy in hook-up culture. As I approach my last semester of college, the ongoing importance of sex and role of sex in my life is frequently on my mind. Where I have landed is that until I can decipher what my expectations are and how I want to communicate them, my relationship with sex is being defined by the people I have sex with. For that reason, taking sex off the table might not be such a bad thing. For my friend with the intimacy dilema, taking sex off the table was an opportunity to build a relationship without the pressure and expectations that came with introducing sex before they were both ready. For my friend with the post-hook-up frozone problem, taking sex off the table meant that she didn't go farther than she wanted to for the sake of meeting his expectations.

Whether it is because you want to evaluate your own relationship with sex, build your emotional connection with someone or stay true to what you want, considering taking sex off the table is the only diet that I will be supporting in 2020.

SARAH FAGAN

Open letter on staff wages

The following letter was sent by the undersigned faculty to Vice President of Human Resources Karen Miller, Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration David Provost, and President Laurie Patton.

Dear Karen and Dave,

We are very glad that the wages for incoming workers at Middlebury have been raised to something much closer to a livable wage. We realize that the college's primary purpose was to be competitive and thus salaries were raised for entry level positions, but we are concerned that this has created wage compression and a sense of serious dissatisfaction among our longest and most dedicated employees.

We believe the issue of wage-compression must be addressed. As you can imagine, for people who have been here for many years, even decades, it seems incomprehensible that their salaries should be the same as or just barely higher than incoming employees.

We hope you will consider issuing an announcement as soon as possible about how long-term employees will see their wages increase in the near future in order to compensate them appropriately.

Thank you for your consideration.

Signed,
Laurie Essig
Gloria Gonzáles Zenteno
Ellery Foutch
Kevin Moss
Ellen Oxfeld
Patricia Saldarriaga
Shawna Shapiro
Michael Sheridan
Yumna Siddiqi
Daniel Silva
Rebecca Tiger
Max Ward

Your input matters to Community Council

op-ed

***John Gosselin** is a member of the class of 2020 and a member of Tavern.*

A committee appointed by Community Council will soon conduct a review of specialty housing at the college, including all social houses and special interest houses. Unlike reviews in past years, this review seeks to revise some of the rules under which special interest and social housing are governed, through gathering feedback from residents at the same time as determining whether houses are following the current rules. As a student involved with the residential life report that recommended this review, I would like to offer my opinion on the manner in which it should be conducted. I take some of these suggestions from my experience with the report, whose methodology, like that of any report, can always be improved. First, the committee should seek to engage with all residents by interviewing both students in leadership positions, as well as those who simply live in a house. Second, the review should take into account the original purpose for which the houses under review were built. Third, and perhaps most importantly, the committee members should incorporate feedback from staff as well as students, especially custodial staff.

The first point concerns only larger houses like Tavern, Brooker, PALANA, Chromatic, etc. which have many non-officer residents. When I was co-chair of Community Council, I found it difficult to communicate effectively with house leadership on long-term issues that might affect the formation of new rules. This lack of communication may have occurred because the Community Council was trying to enforce housing rules at the same time as it was trying to find out information that would be helpful in drafting new rules. People who are simply residents in a house are more likely to share useful information because they are not explicitly tasked with representing the house to the administration. They also offer a different perspective that is not necessarily influenced as heavily by the work of organizing social events and community gatherings.

I make the second suggestion because many specialty housing buildings have unique features such as decks, courtyards, large and small lounges, and kitchens of varying sizes with varying equipment. Considering the state of all of these physical features will help to determine whether a certain group of residents is using all of their resources to the best of their ability. For example, it is a much more specific and useful question to ask, "How often would you say you use your deck?" than to ask, "Do you think you use the fixtures of your house to the best of your ability?" or, "Are you satisfied with the fixtures in your house?" Depending on the mission or social climate of certain houses, it may be the case that one group of students needs more lounge space and another group needs a smaller kitchen. Obviously, housing stock is limited, and it seems unlikely that any organization would move as a result of this review, but these kinds of questions might be helpful in determining the course of upkeep and renovations. Figuring out exactly what are over- and underutilized spaces inside these houses could be a method that might help to achieve the goals of the review.

While it should be self-evident that the review committee should engage with staff – especially custodial staff – over the course of this review, the manner in which that engagement occurs often yields only partially useful information. In this review, I would suggest that the committee hold a meeting where they brainstorm the exact questions they would like to ask staff members before they send out a survey or bring people into meetings. The most useful information is, again, the most specific: figure out how houses take care of their specific equipment, how many barrels of trash people generate, how much electricity they use, etc. Staff members will have different kinds of specific information than students, and the questions should take that into account. Currently, these rules function well to ensure that the houses are full of students, but they do a bad job of predicting future student needs, even when those needs are obvious. Having more specific information about these needs would increase the predictive power of the rules, and more effective rules would increase overall student satisfaction. I look forward to reading the committee's report, hope these suggestions might be of some small help and would encourage readers of this newspaper to engage enthusiastically with this review process.

An invitation from the Scott Center

While the turn of the calendar year is often a time for optimism, it is hard to ignore the threat of war with Iran we faced earlier this month, along with the devastating bushfires in Australia that have wreaked havoc on people, animals and their homes. These are the consequences of the neglect we show the planet and the devastating power of modern weaponry. These world events, as well as the struggles of building a society free from hate, can weigh heavily on us.

We at the Scott Center for Spiritual and Religious Life find ourselves as speechless as any in the wake of these reports that fill our media outlets lately. We also know that this is the time to appeal to the deepest wisdom of our traditions for insight, inspiration to action and hope.

Our traditions and worldviews vary widely, and so too will our actions and responses. We all hope and pray that our world leaders will find restraint in matters of war, action in matters of the climate crisis, and wisdom and compassion in both.

We are holding those personally affected by events around the world close in our thoughts, while offering our friendship and solidarity. To this end, we invite anyone wanting to share these concerns to gather with us at Wisdom Wednesday on Jan. 29 at 1:30–2 p.m. in Mead Chapel. Wisdom Wednesdays happen every week in Mead, and provide a place for the college community to gather for reflection and shared strength.

May the opening of this new decade be a call to all of us to pursue wisdom from all quarters in order to build a future of love, peace and care.

op-ed

***The Scott Center for Spiritual & Religious Life team** includes Saifa Hussain, Muslim Advisor/ Associate Chaplain; Ellen McKay, Program Coordinator; Mark R. Orten, Dean of Spiritual & Religious Life; and Danielle Stillman, Rabbi/ Associate Chaplain*

Studying in a bushfire

When I stepped out of the Sydney International Airport, the smell of ash immediately entered my nose. After a few minutes of walking, I could already feel the phlegm building up in my throat. A gray haze covered the city, and my heart dropped as I realized I was just going to have to get used to it. There are some days where the air quality is so bad, you can see the ash in the air and are advised to not go outside. The next day, the air quality will be good, and the skies will be clear. It all depends on the day and which way the wind is blowing (literally). It is part of my daily routine now to look up the air quality index to decide whether or not I will be going to the beach that day.

Thankfully, I go to the University of New South Wales, which is right by Sydney, so there are no threats of bushfires. However, many people living in Sydney (like my professor) have family members that had to evacuate their homes.

Every day, people here hope for rain — whether it's for their families, koalas, kangaroos, or billions of other animals. Recently, there was a thunderstorm that provided some relief for the bushfires, but Australia still desperately needs our help. It has some of the most diverse ecosystems in the world, and sadly lots of it has died due to the fires.

Australian relief organizations have been raising money through various tactics. For example, after grocery shopping, the cashiers always ask me if I would like to donate to bushfire fighting organizations. However, with two more months of dry season to go, Australia is going to need all the help it can get.

A Jan. 6 New York Times article, entitled "How to Help Victims of Australia's Fires," lists some organizations that are accepting donations for Australia's victims. Consider making a donation today.

op-ed

***Emily Chu** is a member of the class of 2021.*

SARAH FAGAN

InspirASIANal Voices

By BECCA AMEN
Staff Writer

InspirASIANal Voices, a storytelling event arranged by the student organization RAISINS (Radical Asians), kicked off with the following question: "What is your first memory of a circle?" Club members distributed paper and markers to the audience members, who anonymously penned their answers. The answers were read periodically over the duration of the event and varied considerably. Some were inspired by family memories, some were connected to the mathematical definition of circle and some pertained to the idea of social circles. This activity introduced the theme of the event: the many connotations of the word "circle."

The event on Thursday, Jan. 16 was the fifth annual InspirASIANal Voices hosted by RAISINS, a student organization that focuses on "raising Asian and Asian diaspora voices on campus for more visibility and doing activism work through that," according to Stephen Chen '19.5. The 'club operates through horizontal leadership, highlighting the voices of all club members rather than electing a single leader.

The first storyteller to speak was Pim Singhatiraj '21.5, who began by reading a few poems that she wrote about "her childhood, her trilingualism and her bi-cultural identity." Next, she told a story about bonding with her four queer aunts last summer while visiting her hometown: the island of Phuket, Thailand. Her story related to the theme of the event in that Singhatiraj felt she had gained a "circle of cool aunts to spend time with."

Singhatiraj became interested in RAISINS after attending last year's InspirASIANal Voices event. She has been involved with the organization ever since. "RAISINS helped me find my Asian community and makes me feel like I belong on this campus," she said.

Rachel Lu '23 spoke next, conveying the story of her name. She first explained the origin of her birth name, which came from a psychic who predicts which Chinese characters bestow the best fortune. Next, she spoke about a name she chose for herself in second grade after transferring to an international school in Shanghai. Ultimately, she showed how she came upon the name she now goes by, which she and her parents selected by the time she first attended high school in the United States.

COURTESY PHOTO/PIM SINGHATIRAJ
Rachel Lu '23 recounted the stories behind her names.

"I think of all three names that I have as three circles that don't fit together, and circles can be boundaries. You're either in the circle or you're not," Lu said. "But when you really think about it, maybe my life is a Venn diagram, and I'm just in the middle."

Stephen Chen '19.5 opened by reading the Serenity Prayer and talking about his Christian faith. His story revolved around relinquishing control and passing along leadership knowledge. Themes of accountability and the power of verbalizing one's thoughts to others also surfaced, with the ultimate lesson being that vocal expression connects the speaker with the audience.

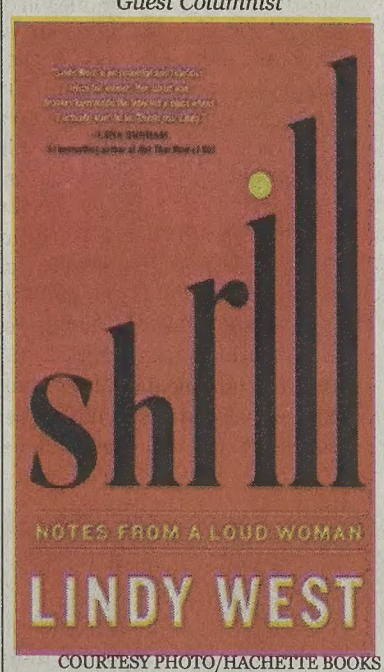
"The circle that you've selected to be around you knows how to support you," Chen said. "Announcing your goals allows other people to enter into your own circle, into what you previously had a tight control over."

Christine Nabung '22 performed last, reading four poems that she wrote. The first two were about her grandmothers, one of whom lives with her and the other who lives in the Philippines, where she was born. She addressed her grandmothers' histories with colonization as well as the inability to digitally contact her grandparents in the Philippines.

Last year, club members collaborated to create a zine titled "The Asian and Asian-American Sexual Experience." The organization also works to connect students and professors from similar cultural backgrounds. According to member Jasmine Chau '21, this year, the club has also been working on amassing stories from Middlebury's Asian residents, culminating in a podcast that will be uploaded to their Instagram account.

The Librarian is In

By KATRINA SPENCER
Guest Columnist



COURTESY PHOTO/HACHETTE BOOKS

In her debut collection of essays, "Shrill," available in print and as an audiobook, author Lindy West takes a number of anti-feminist, fatphobic and misogynistic beliefs and challenges readers to examine the underpinnings of these hegemonic and harmful ideologies.

What does that mean in plain English? West supports women. She believes fat bodies are worthy of respect, space and love. And she believes that women have more to offer the world than just their sexual appeal to men. She also believes this in spite of the fact that the predominant culture in the United States would suggest otherwise.

West is a smart writer and an in-tune cultural critic. One of her strengths is her vulnerability. For example, in one of her essays, she recounts calling out her former boss, well- known sex columnist Dan Savage, for his insulting rhetoric surrounding fat people. In another, she tells of the abortion she had before she was ready to become a parent. In a third, she tries to explain why there really is no appropriate place for rape jokes, despite the fact that some stand-up comedians favor them.

These positions and willingness to be open and confrontational about issues that are largely taboo in our culture should garner West an award for bravery. However, I'm concerned that the audience most likely to consume her work— or the words of any "shrill" woman— is an audience that is already on board with her message. And in that respect, regrettably, she may not be catalyzing widespread change — The same may be true of this very column.

West's audience is likely white women between the ages of 20 and 45 who are highly literate, regular readers, willing to appreciate rhetorical nuance and sensitive to feminist issues. Wonderful. They likely look to her to help themselves better articulate some of the ideological conundrums they encounter. That's fine. But, I suspect that the people who most need to engage in discussions regarding a woman's bodily autonomy, such as some male legislators in Congress, for example, will never page through this publication. The people who most need contact with this work are likely oblivious to its existence.

Is it West's responsibility to lure that readership towards her arguments? No! But how do we move a conversation forward when the interlocutors create an echo chamber? In plain English: if the only people willing to hear a message are those who already believe it, what, ultimately, are we accomplishing? Is the book good? Sure. As with any collection of essays, some are stronger and more compelling than others. I have already mentioned my favorites.

To whom would I recommend it— with realistic hopes that they might read it? You can see my quote above: "white women between the ages of 20 and 45 who are highly literate, regular readers, willing to appreciate rhetorical nuance and are sensitive to feminist issues." What more might I hope for? That there be a way to position the work so that the issues it addresses are heard by more people who will encounter the ideas as novel, provocative and so alien as to be engrossing. For more titles like this one, see Roxane Gay's "Hunger" or Samantha Irby's "meaty."

AN INSIDER'S LOOK INTO THE DANCE COMPANY OF MIDDLEBURY

By ARIADNE WILL
Local Editor

Editor's note: *Ariadne Will is a member of the Dance Company of Middlebury and a Local Editor for the Campus.*

After five months of rehearsals, the Dance Company of Middlebury will be performing a new work, On A Limb, this upcoming weekend. Dancers Lí Buzzard 22.5, Christian Kummer '22, Emma Lodge '19.5, Mai Thuong '22 and I have been working since early September to create work centered around the concept of "presence as performance." Led primarily by Scholar in Residence Karima Borni, the dancers also worked with Portland, Ore.-based artist Meshi Chavez.

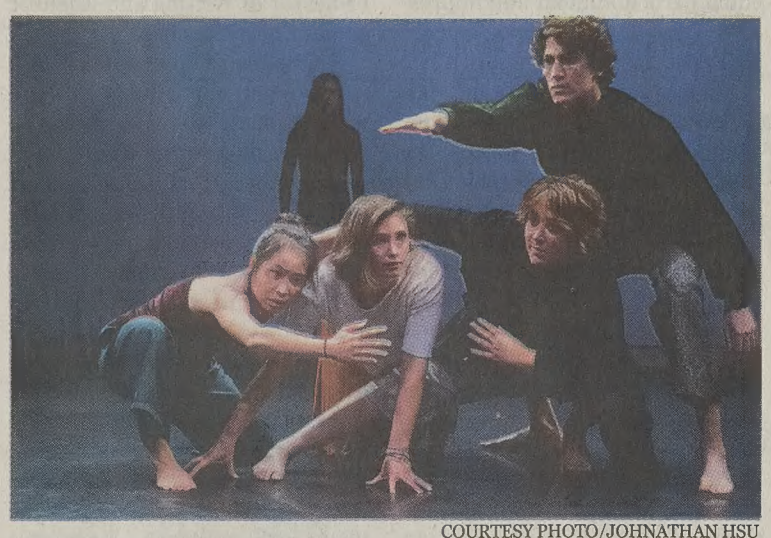
Chavez, who practices primarily the Japanese dance style of Butoh, has used the opportunity to introduce dancers to more intentional methods of movement.

COURTESY PHOTO/JOHNATHAN HSU

"I feel like my job as a choreographer is to help my dancers shine in the best light while learning how to get out of the light in a certain way," Chavez said. "I think part of Butoh is learning how to remove ourselves, our opinions and our judgments and let the beauty of simplicity arrive."

This practice of patience and simplicity has been challenging for the dancers, but they have used it to create something they hope resonates with their audience.

"I hope the audience can see our honest and genuine effort to feel movement and intensity without having to add anything performative to it," said Mai Thuong '22. "I hope that the audience will embrace the simplicity [the piece] has to offer."



COURTESY PHOTO/JOHNATHAN HSU

Even with strong intent behind movement, Chavez says that an idea alone is not enough to create a stimulating performance. "It's not enough to have an idea. We have to be able to communicate the idea," he said. "What do we have to say? Right now I am trying to help the dancers figure out what they're trying to say."

The dancers, too, are trying to decipher what they want to tell their audience.

"[The creative process] has been about committing to the task at hand, whatever that task may be, and knowing that in 15 minutes the task may be entirely different," said Emma Lodge '19.5. "There's been so much working with other people and learning to listen in new ways."

As Lodge has been learning to listen, other dancers have been relearning the ways different bodies fit into the dance narrative.

"We have learned about the difference between doing choreography and allowing choreography to be done unto you," said Christina Kummer '22. "The latter allows for a more authentic performance to take place as the piece gets to live and breathe as its own entity."

Thuong learned that anyone can become a member of the dance community. "Before coming to Middlebury, I hated dancing," she said. "I thought dancing [was for] the sake of aesthetic beauty or entertainment and meant long legs, flexibility and shallowness."

This changed in her first semester, when Thuong attended the Fall Dance Concert. "I thought, 'where are all those stereotypes about dance?' I felt there was a meaning I wanted to grab," she said. Thuong then took Intro to Dance in the spring of 2019 and has been dancing ever since. "I love this feeling of being free and letting my body be open to the vulnerability and thrill of moving," she said.

It is perhaps this attention to learning — an attention that has played as large a role as the movement itself — that has led the work to assume an essence which dancers have described as both "uncomfortable" and "meditative."

"If you're wanting to feel comfortable and catered to, this may not be the piece for you," warned Kummer. Despite his disclaimer, Kummer believes that this work also carries with it a universality.

"I want this piece to be a sounding board that brings up particular emotions and memories for everyone in the audience," he said. "That is something that is so exciting about the dance we do in the department – [dance] means something different to everyone. The task becomes to make something that is compelling enough to draw out meaning."

COURTESY PHOTO/JOHNATHAN HSU

The universality to which Kummer hopes the work appeals is something Chavez says is the result of the ages of DCM's dancers.

"I think the work is about [the dancers'] experience at the age that they are right now," he said. "You go off to college and you're on your own and you're discovering what that ownness is. So in some ways I feel like this piece is about feeling our ownness and all of the emotion and feeling that comes with that."

DON'T MISS THIS

The Light in the Piazza

Director Douglas Anderson and music director Carol Christensen present the annual winter term musical, a collaboration of the Department of Music and Town Hall Theater. The soaring score harkens back to lyricist Adam Guettel's grandfather, Richard Rodgers.

Friday 1/24-Monday 1/27, 7:30 p.m., 2 PM 1/26, Town Hall Theater, $20/15/6

Hirschfield International Film Series: Varda by Agnés

The final film from the late, beloved Agnès Varda is a characteristically playful, profound, and personal summation of the director's own brilliant career. This wonderfully idiosyncratic work of imaginative autobiography is a warmly human, touchingly bittersweet parting gift from one of cinema's most luminous talents.

Saturday 1/25, 3; 8 p.m., Dana Auditorium

Jane: Abortion and the Underground

GSFS 203 is performing and producing a play about abortion, reproductive justice and bold 1960s housewives through the lens of the Jane Collective- an underground provider of safe (illegal) abortions in Chicago in the years before Roe v. Wade.

Wednesday 1/29- Thursday 1/30, 7 p.m., Hepburn Zoo, $5

A throwback to RIDDIM

By EMMANUEL TAMRAT
Online Editor

RIDDIM World Dance Troupe, one of the college's oldest and most recognizable student dance groups, takes Wilson Hall by storm twice a year. Its biannual show consistently sells out, and its recent Fall 2019 show, "RIDDIM Throws It Back," was no different. Nearly every seat was filled as members of the audition-only troupe performed a variety of pieces choreographed by fellow dancers.

So, what's RIDDIM all about?

RIDDIM began as RIDDIM World Dance Club in Spring 1998. Started by Tessa Waddell '02, the club aimed to present the Middlebury community with different styles of dance. From the club came the troupe, an audition-only and student-run group with a stated goal "to provide the Middlebury College community with an outlet of expression through diverse dance styles."

The word "riddim" comes from the Jamaican Patois pronunciation of the English word "rhythm," but in reggae and other Afro-Carribean music styles it most commonly refers to the instrumental background of songs.

Mariel Edokwe '20, a RIDDIM board member, said that the troupe's style of dance has shifted away from its Afro-Carribean origin over the years.

"As [RIDDIM] continued on, it started kind of shifting towards a contemporary, modern, more ballet-based [style]," Edokwe said. "I know that there's controversy about that, but I know that since I've joined RIDDIM, freshman year in the fall of 2016, they're really trying to diversify in terms of its members and in terms of its dance styles."

Edokwe said that the group aims to create a positive, open space for students to dance on campus. She recalled her own experience as a ballet dancer before coming to Middlebury and noted that many dancers in her position choose to pursue their career instead of an education. On-campus groups like RIDDIM allow students who want to dance to do both.

With that being said, RIDDIM members come with varying levels of dance experience. Some members come from a competitive background and have several years of ballet experience whereas others have no formal dance training at all. The troupe remains open to all styles of dance, which Edokwe considers "part of the beauty of RIDDIM itself."

EMMANUEL TAMRAT/MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
Malia Armstrong '22.5 and Katie Koch '22.5 choreographed "Partition," a piece that asserts femininity and female sexuality.

"I know that for me, personally, and for a bunch of my friends and the group members, that it's been really awesome for us to come in as, for me, say, a ballet dancer, and then to try hip-hop, try Latin dancing, and to try styles I've never done before and just grow as a person and dancer, and just kind of expose yourself to all there is that's out there in a way that maybe you didn't get to before."

Malia Armstrong '22.5 acknowledged the challenges of being a student dancer but said she feels supported by the RIDDIM community.

"Being in Riddim has completely reignited my creativity and passion after feeling burnt out after years of dancing competitively and has created a supportive and healing space on campus. It reminded me why I love to dance and that is something I will always be grateful for."

RIDDIM is an inclusive environment that is welcoming to students of all classes and levels of experience. The nine-person board includes members of different years, which allows multiple voices to be heard, and any RIDDIM member can choreograph a piece as early as their second show.

Armstrong and Katie Koch '22.5 choreographed their first piece, "Partition" for the Fall 2019 show. The dance was performed to Beyonce's Partition – a song that celebrates female sexuality – and featured excerpts from speeches by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, a renowned author and vocal feminist.

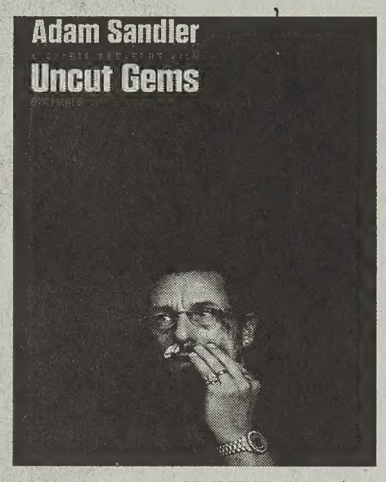
Armstrong said that she and Koch chose this song because it features a woman talking about sex and sexuality with strength and confidence, something that is often repressed in society. They overlaid Adichie's speeches over the song in order to more concisely convey their message. The song ended with the phrase "I have chosen to no longer be apologetic for my femaleness and femininity," which Armstrong said sums up the intention behind their piece as a whole.

"My favorite part of choreographing this piece was being able to collaborate with Katie doing something that is out of my comfort zone," Armstrong wrote in an email to The Campus. "I had never choreographed a heels piece, so exploring different movements with Katie was challenging, but being able to create something together that meant a lot to us was really exciting."

"When I joined RIDDIM, I thought I was just joining a dance group," she said. "I had no idea that this group would become my second family. I am so grateful to have connected with such an incredible community of people, all bonded by our love of dance."

Reel Critic: "Uncut Gems"

By OWEN MASON-HILL
Arts & Academics Editor



COURTESY PHOTO/A24

The entirety of the Safdie brothers' 2019 "Uncut Gems" is a sucker punch to the gut, and as soon as you fall to the ground gasping for air, you are battered by an assault of kicks. There isn't a moment's respite for the full two hour and fifteen minute runtime. It seems, right from the start, that the film has caught Howard Ratner (Adam Sandler) at a point when his world is crumbling. Yet after the final fade to black, I have come to the realization that it has always been crumbling.

Howard is a jeweler working with a range of very high-paying clients, yet there is something undeniably shady about his practices. He has a wide selection of precious gems and an array of studded necklaces, bracelets and watches. Those around him understand not to ask where he gets them: They already know that the answer will most certainly not be legal. He owes money to just about everybody, though he doesn't seem all too concerned with paying them off, causing tremendous stress and irritation to his creditors. Howard has always been a day late and a dollar short, but that just seems to be the way life goes for him; it's not an anomaly, it has become the norm.

Set in the midst of the 2012 Eastern Conference NBA Semifinals as the Boston Celtics take on the Philadelphia 76ers, "Uncut Gems" brings the real life persona, charisma and talent that is Kevin Garnett into Howard's arena. One of Howard's "partners," Demany, (Lakeith Stanfield) who helps Howard bring in customers on the condition that Howard helps him sell his fake Rolex watches, has brought Garnett in for that exact purpose, yet Howard has something different to show him on this occasion. For the past 17 months, after making a discovery while watching the History channel, Howard has wheeled-and-dealed his way into procuring a black opal, one of the most precious stones in the world, worth roughly $1 million as is.

"You can see the whole universe in a black opal," Howard says to Garnett as he hands him a loupe to inspect the gem, drawing him into the allure the gem emits. This is the central theme of "Uncut Gems," you must search past the rough exterior of an uncut gem and look inward to discover the beauty of it.

Howard is an uncut gem to the utmost degree; rough on the exterior and only to the trained eye can his 24-karat brilliance be seen.

Kevin Garnett found himself in a turbulent seven game series, fluctuating up and down, carrying his team equally often to victory and defeat. So, as he enters Howard's shop, he is searching for salvation. As soon as he places the loupe to his eye and leans in to the crystal he sees his whole life flash by.

Garnett himself is an uncut gem, especially as an athlete. Professional athletes open themselves up to incredible amounts of criticism and hate; reactions are directed towards their outermost layer, yet Kevin wants to look deep within himself to find the star ball player he is. The pull of the gem is incredibly magnetic, as soon as he sees it, he knows he must have it, offering up his 2008 NBA Championship ring as collateral, given that he doesn't have the $1 million tucked away in some back pocket.

A jeweler with a ring and an athlete with a rock, each possessing something of value to the other with the agreement that a swap will be remade at the end of the week when Howard has arranged for his gem to be auctioned off. However, things immediately fail to go according to plan as Howard pawns the ring to make a bet on Kevin in order to procure the $100,000 debt he has collected.

Howard believes completely in his ability as a businessman and financial whiz, yet time isn't on his side — there are only so many chances you can be offered before your mistakes get the better of you. In the end, the constraints of the hole Howard has dug for himself may be too great for him to escape. It is in his beautiful demise that "Uncut Gems" emplores audiences to strive to understand the deeper existence of someone, see them as there are, not who they present themselves to be. Everyone is an uncut gem struggling to find their way out of the mines and into the spotlight; Howard's only problem is mistaking the gem for himself.

An endless search for external and monetary validation can lead nowhere, and it is only within ourselves that we come to understand the world.

These classes will give you chills

By RAIN JI
Arts & Academics Editor

Every winter, Middlebury attracts visiting scholars and professionals who bring innovative J-Term classes to campus that not only challenge students in all disciplines, but often extend beyond the constraints of normal lectures. This year, visiting instructors discuss Vermont's food system, build Japanese tea houses and uncover the workings of Vermont'sSupreme Court.

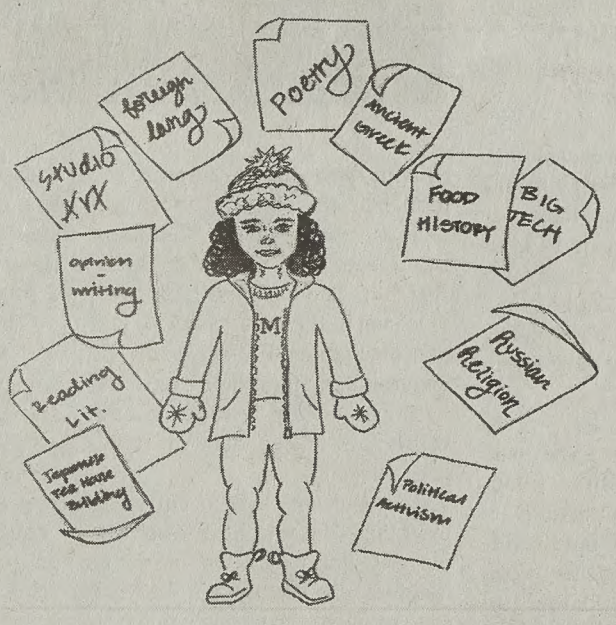
Visiting instructors undertake a rigorous vetting process led by the Curriculum Committees headed by Dean of Curriculum and Professor of Psychology Suzanne Gurland. The committee balances a variety of high quality classes that can satisfy the student body's general interest. (Read about how the college picks its J-Term professors on Page 2.)

Some of this year's winter courses share the theme of political advocacy, storytelling and social activism through different prisms.

Eleni Schirmer, a PhD candidate at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and former co-president of the Teaching Assistants' Association, teaches "Educational Change and Teachers Strike." The class begins with a discussion of major issues currently faced by teachers' unions while considering today's economic and political context. Key questions the class explores throughout the month include whether teachers' unions improve or undermine democracy, the relationship between teachers and the working class, and the history of teachers' unions.

After outlining the major themes, Schirmer dives deeper into each topic using specific case studies, such as teachers' strikes in Chicago and Los Angeles. Since teachers' strikes garnered much national attention in 2019, Schirmer notes that students in this year's course are more fluent in basic concepts related to unions. Ultimately, Schirmer wants to share with students the complexity behind bringing democracy to workplaces and schools. "I have personal activist experience and a certain amount of academic expertise, and I try to bring both into the classroom because I think they're both valuable," she said.

She designs the classroom dynamic to resemble an employer-employee relationship rather than that of professor and student. From the first day, students collectively bargain with her to set up a contract. This teaching method is highly regarded by her students. "[Professor Schirmer] employs so many interesting teaching techniques and activities, and facilitates discussion really wonderfully," said Caitlin Barr '22.5. Schirmer's unique experience as both activist and scholar brings valuable perspectives to the issue of teachers' unions and educational change in America.



SARAH FAGAN

While Schirmer's class focuses on a specific cause in the grand scheme of political activism, Phil Aroneanu '06.5 and Deborah Moore explore how to conduct successful campaigns in broader terms in their class "Waging Winning Campaigns: How to Advocate for Change."

Aroneanu wants to reconnect with the Middlebury community and teach a class on campaigns because he feels "there is a lot of student activism but not a ton of investment from nonprofits that provides the nuts and bolts of how to run a campaign."

"There is a hunger for applied skills to make real changes in the world," Moore, parent of a Middlebury alumna, said. They decided to co-teach the class after a mutual acquaintance introduced them to each other.

Throughout the class, students design and implement a campaign strategy using tactics they learn in the class, such as writing press releases and op-eds. Additionally, the class has an opportunity to travel to the Vermont State Legislature to meet with elected officials and advocate for their issues.

Instead of solely focusing on one type of activism, they look at issues ranging from civil rights, to healthcare, to immigration rights. They also discuss causes across the political spectrum.

"I think it's important for students at Middlebury to understand how power works in the world, and in particular, at a college," said Aroneanu. "I hope to see students integrate civic engagement into their lives, because that's what democracy requires," said Moore.

In a similar vein, Kim Gagne teaches a class on advocacy and story-telling. He was previously a MiddCORE mentor and jumped at the opportunity to teach a course this winter. Gagne's career is equal parts nonlinear and impressive: from a high school teacher in Texas, to an attorney in D.C., to foreign service officer in Haiti and Saudi Arabia and to policy campaign manager in Europe. Because of his own experience, he wants students to realize that the critical thinking and writing skills they acquire from their liberal arts education will be of immense value to them for the rest of their lives. In "Controlling the Narrative: Legal, Diplomatic, and Political Advocacy," Gagne explains that advocacy entails something completely different in today's political landscape. "We used to think of Clark Gifford when we think of advocacy in the old time." However, good advocacy includes elements such as "direct outreach" and "influencer outreach." In order to help students better understand each element, he invites many speakers who, according to Gagne, are "people at the absolute top of the discipline."

For their final project, students examine what happens behind the scenes of a chosen advocacy project and analyze the tactics that it used. Gagne hopes that after his class, students will be able to look at campaigns happening around them and understand them on a deeper level. Essentially, advocacy is about how to properly present your story when adversarial narratives exist, according to Gagne. "Life is about storytelling," Gagne said. "That's how you persuade people."

Similar to Gagne's course, Joel Fendelman, an award-winning producer, aspires to tell socially-conscious stories in his professional career. This winter term, he teaches "Voice Through Documentary" after being encouraged to do so by his co-producer, Assistant Professor of Writing and Rhetoric James Chase Sanchez.

Fendelman hopes to teach this course as an opportunity to share with students what it means to find their own voice. "There could be something that spans artistic spectrum that you may not even think of as documentary," he said. In order to help students move past their preconceived notions about documentaries, he assigned a variety of documentaries in the first week.

From there, an intensive three-week preparation period begins, during which Fendelman works alongside his students to provide them with guidance. Since students come from different backgrounds, the technical aspect of filmmaking is the most challenging. To combat this, he assigns students LinkedIn video-making tutorials, and even inexperienced students can quickly reach a basic level of proficiency.

Fendelman hopes students can plow through the plethora of techniques and find the one that they truly connect with. He emphasizes that a person must first recognize their own individuality in order to tell a unique story.

Following a year of widespread activism in Hong Kong, Paris and Algiers, among others, these classes show an urge from visiting professors and students to study and scrutinize political advocacy and storytelling techniques together.

WE WANT YOU!

TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

WE ARE LOOKING FOR:

WRITERS AND REPORTERS
- NEWS
- ARTS AND ACADEMICS
- LOCAL
- SPORTS
- OPINION

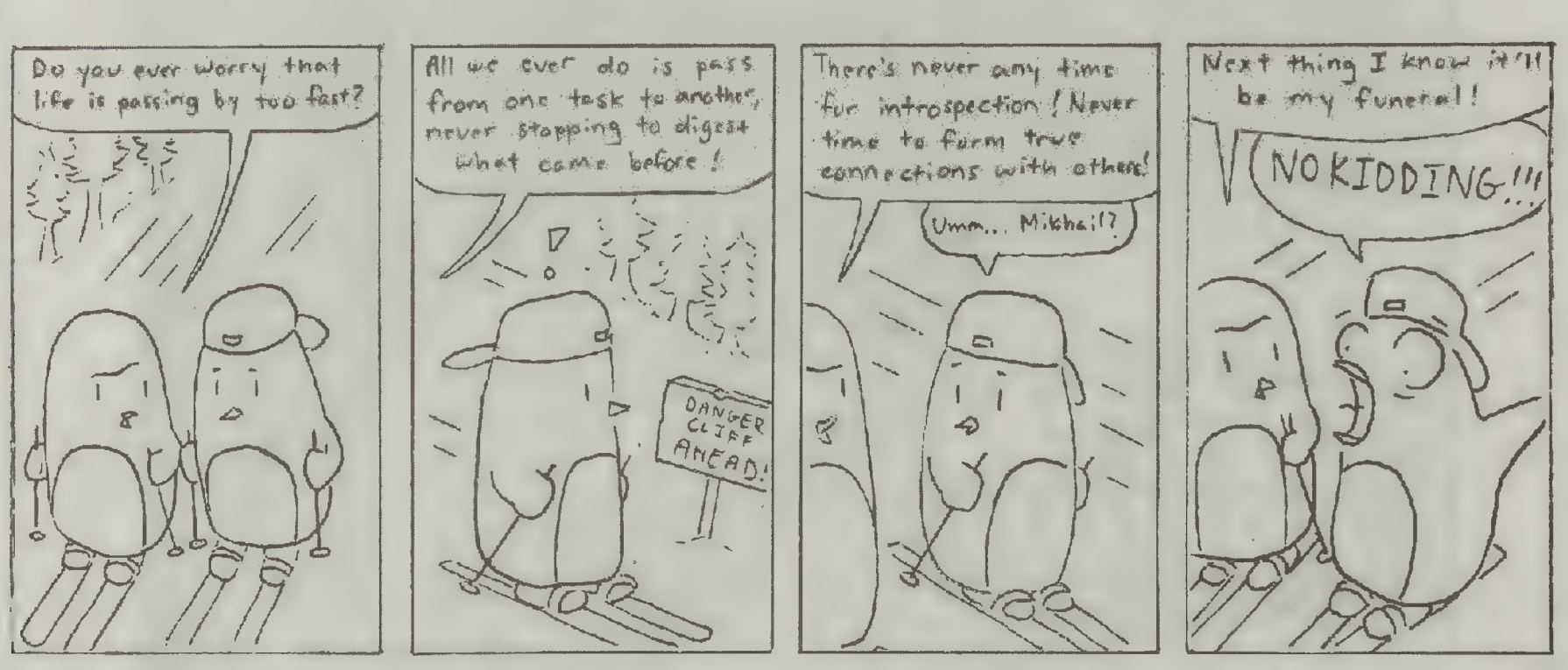
PHOTOGRAPHERS

CARTOONISTS

COLUMNISTS

CONTACT CAMPUS@MIDDLEBURY.EDU IF INTERESTED!

PIA CONTRERAS


Do you ever worry that life is passing by too fast?
All we ever do is pass from one task to another, never stopping to digest what came before!
DANGER CLIFF AHEAD!
There's never any time for introspection! Never time to form true connections with others!
Umm... Mikhail?
Next thing I know it'll be my funeral!
NO KIDDING!!!

THIN ICE by ARTHUR FURNISS

GREEN PEPPERS
Restaurant
The official pizza of
The Middlebury Campus
local · handcrafted · freshly prepared
(802) 388-3164

Center for Community Engagement

Join MiddVote at the Pre-Primary Voter Registration Drive

Date: Jan. 22, 4:30-6:30pm & Jan. 28, 7-9pm
Location: Crossroads Cafe

Join MiddVote for a voter registration and absentee ballot request drive. We can answer any questions you have about registering and voting in your state's upcoming presidential primary elections! This event is happening on Wednesday, January 22nd and on Tuesday, January 28th. For questions or concerns, please contact Ashley Laux at alaux@middlebury.edu.

Working on Political Campaigns

Date: Jan. 23, 7-8pm
Location: Davis Library 105 via Zoom

Working on a political campaign can offer you the opportunity to develop a range of skills within a fast-paced environment. Campaigns allow you an insider's scoop on the electoral process, as well as the day-to-day schedule and concerns of elected officials and their constituents. If you've ever thought of working on a campaign, be it full-time, part-time or volunteer, attend this virtual panel discussion with Middlebury alumni. Learn about their different roles on a campaign, current trends in their work and their own paths from campus to career. Bring your questions. This event is for ALL students, and designed to be informal and nonpartisan to show you options available no matter your party affiliation, especially for the upcoming elections this fall. Panelist names, bios, and photos coming soon, stay tuned! RSVP here if interested.

Apply for a Position in Habitat for Humanity

Deadline: Jan. 24, 11:59pm

Habitat for Humanity is a nationwide project with a goal of building sustainable and affordable homes. Middlebury College is looking to build our student chapter. We work with the local volunteers and architects to design and build these homes. Please join us if you are interested in affordable housing, architecture, construction, the housing crisis, and community building! Current positions available for rising juniors and seniors who are looking to commit a significant amount of time to Habitat: Co-President and Treasurer. Some smaller positions are also available for all grade levels, although underclassmen applications are preferable: Social Media and Communications, Build Coordinator, and Recruiter.

Join United Way's Community Impact Funding Team

Deadline: Jan. 25, 11:59pm

Interested in non-profit work and the grant review process? Join United Way's Community Impact Funding Team! Come learn about the behind-the-scenes work involved in the grant approval process. United Way of Addison County (UWAC) is seeking Middlebury College student volunteers to review grant applications from nonprofits that are working to ensure that every child gets a strong start in life, teenagers have the tools to learn and grow and young adults thrive in the job market here in Addison County. Joining the Community Impact Funding (CIF) review team is a great opportunity for anyone interested in learning about the grant making process, as well as the types of needs being addressed by our local nonprofits. In the past three years, reviewers helped UWAC invest $991,605 in 33 programs covering 28 different agencies across the region. Volunteer responsibilities include reviewing applications, conducting site visits and making funding recommendations to the UWAC Board of Directors. The work will require a time commitment of 10-15 hours for meetings, plus approximately 30 additional hours of grant review and scoring between the beginning of February through the beginning of May. Accommodations will be made for absences over February Break and Spring Break. Experience is not necessary, as UWAC will provide training. Enthusiasm, curiosity, and a sense of humor are highly valued! Interested students should send their resume and statement of interest to United Way of Addison County Volunteer Center Coordinator Linnea Oosterman at linnea@unitedwayaddisoncounty.org by January 25th.

Volunteer at Bayada Hospice

Hospice is not just about sitting vigil. It's the ability to bring joy to families and patients through music, reading, letter-writing, and therapy pets. Hospice also offers one-time opportunities as well as scheduled opportunities that may last a week or a month. The possibilities are open to suggestion from volunteers, based on their abilities and interests, including direct service and administrative help. We are limited only by our imaginations. If a student has a particular interest or project, I can almost guarantee we would be able to find a niche for them. Well, perhaps not for heavy metal in a skilled nursing facility at midnight (or maybe so!) – but you get my drift. We are flexible, and we work with whatever schedules are available, whether it be a one-off, an hour a week, an hour a month. All volunteer work is valuable! For some ideas about the kind of work you can do at Bayada Hospice, click here. For any questions, please contact Martha Perantoni at mperantoni@bayada.com. Please consider attending the information session on Saturday, February 29 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Isley Library in the Community Room. We'll have light refreshments and a pet therapy dog.

Center for Careers and Internships

See these opportunities and more at go/handshake.

Colorado Health Institute: CLIMB Internships

Location: Denver, Co.
Term: Summer
Deadline: Jan. 29, rolling basis

The Colorado Health Institute (CHI) is a non-profit, non-partisan health policy research group. CHI provides evidence-based data and information to inform policy, advance health, promote collaboration and support better access to care for all Coloradans. The health policy intern will assist in policy analysis; assist in producing policy briefs, white papers, blogs, primers, presentations and fact sheets; and support analysts and directors. CLIMB Internships are 10-week undergraduate summer internships in Denver, Colorado, designed exclusively for Middlebury, Yale, Denison, Northwestern, Wesleyan, Harvard, MIT and Stanford students. Pay is generally a minimum of $4,600 for the summer.

Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts

Location: Washington, D.C.
Term: Summer
Deadline: Jan. 31

The Next Generation Leaders Scholarship Program is a comprehensive 10-week intensive arts administration training program. Through the program, students will have the opportunity to develop office skills, gain qualifications for future jobs in arts administration, and cultivate social capital by developing connections with leaders and peers. The scholarship program is built with the goal of aiding the development of qualifications to serve as potential future leaders at arts organizations across the country. The Summer 2020 term will award $4,500 scholarships (taxable) to a group of up to 12 students.

Faustman Immunology Lab

Location: Charlestown, Mass.
Term: Full Time
Deadline: Jan. 31

Exciting Alumni Referral! The Faustman Lab is running an innovative Phase II clinical trial focused on the treatment of type 1 diabetes. Located at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School, they're testing the potential of BCG to potentially reverse type 1 diabetes in adults and children. This opportunity will provide first-hand exposure to research related to human disease and an understanding of the importance and challenges of translational research. This is an ideal position for candidates wishing to pursue a career in medicine or research!

Center for Nonproliferation Studies

Location: Monterey , Ca.
Term: Summer
Deadline: Feb. 14

The James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies (CNS) at the Middlebury Institute is now accepting applications for its paid summer internship program. This is a high-value internship that involves formal curriculum and training, as well as practical experiential education working on important public policy projects with CNS experts.

Massachusetts General Hospital

Location: Boston, Mass.
Term: Full-Time
Deadline: Apr. 30

Great Opportunity for Pre-Dental Student looking to take 2 years between college and dental school! Program studying long term oral health is looking for a recent grad whose responsibilities include the coordination of clinical research project/protocol, subject recruitment, collecting and organizing subject data; scheduling subjects for study visits, telephone screening, clinical tests such as EKGs; maintaining and updating data generated by the study.

We **still** want your job ads, for-sale postings, personals – anything you want to broadcast to our 3,000+ readership.

Through these ads, we're hoping to better conect college and town, and to engage our readers in new, thoughtful ways.

Direct inquiries and feedback to campus@middlebury.edu.

Track & field places second at Middlebury Winterfell

By JORDAN HOWELL
Sports Writer

The Panthers competed in the Middlebury Winterfell on Saturday, Jan. 18, with both the men and women capturing second place in their respective meets.

"Overall we are very happy with how we performed at the Middlebury Winterfell," said **Jonathan Fisher '20**. "It was the first meet of the season for many of the people who were competing, so it was a good chance for us to shake off the rust from a long offseason."

William Robertson '21 and Fisher, who both competed in the 600-meter run, came in second and third place respectively. Other notable finishes were **Moran Justin '23** who got first in the long jump event and **Nathaniel Klein '21** who got first in the weight throw event.

For the women, the "A" team got first in the 4X400 meter relay; this team was composed of **Julia McClain '22**, **Julia Munz '22**, **Audrey Grimes '23,** and **Ava O'Mara '21**. Other important contributors were **Grace Desmond '23** with a second place finish in the high jump event, and **Emily Ray '20** with a first place finish in the weight throw event.

"I would say that we are quite confident at this point in the season," said Fisher. "We have obviously had plenty of team success in the past few years, with both the men's and women's teams coming off top-two finishes at the NESCAC championships last year, and we are certainly in the mix again this year."

The Panthers will try to continue their successes when they compete in the Middlebury Invitational on Saturday, Jan. 25. Since this will be the team's last home meet for until a while, make sure to go out and show your support.

BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Women's squash defends national ranking during home weekend

By HEATHER BOEHM
Sports Editor

Women's squash has had its ups and downs this season, but the team was able to bounce back over the holiday weekend, going 2–1 on its home courts.

The strong performance began on Thursday, Jan. 16 when the Panthers fed off of the energetic crowds that filed in behind them to sweep #16 Amherst. Confident after such a decisive win, the women eased past #18 Franklin and Marshall on Saturday, Jan. 18 with a 9–0 finish, giving the Diplomats only a single game throughout the entire contest. Unfortunately, Middlebury was unable to extend its winning streak as it could not find a way past #12 Brown on Sunday, Jan. 19. Strong play from three Panthers helped decrease the margin to 6–3. Holding the second spot in the lineup, **Virginia Schaus '21** stole a match from the Bears without dropping a game. Her win was followed by teammate **Annie Glassie '20** who snatched the win in a nail-biting five game match in the eighth slot. The third victory came from fellow senior **Mira Chugh '20** who closed out her contest in four games in the ninth position.

Glassie commented on the strong weekend. "We definitely felt good about our performance this weekend, beating Amherst and F&M 9–0 showed everyone's focus and commitment," said Glassie. "Our match with Brown was closer this time than it has been in the past, and I think everyone fought really hard and we never gave up. I think for this upcoming weekend we want to build on the momentum from brown and continue to bring the same level of energy and focus to Bates. Bates is a good team and one that we have always had tight matches with so it's good that we are coming out of a successful weekend and everyone is fired up!"

The Panthers, now with a 3–4 record, will use this week to prepare for their triple header that kicks off on Thursday, Jan. 23 on the road against Bates. The women will move on to face Bowdoin and Colby on Friday, Jan. 24 and Saturday, Jan. 25 respectively.

Men's hockey falls twice, extends losing streak to four

By BLAISE SEIFER
Sports Writer

The men's hockey team lost both of its matchups this week, falling to Norwich on Tuesday, Jan. 14 and Plattsburgh on Friday, Jan. 17. With these two losses, Middlebury extends its losing streak to four, in addition to altering its season record to 7–7.

The Panthers traveled to Northfield, Vermont on Tuesday evening to face the fourth-ranked Norwich Cadets (14–2–2) in a non-conference tie. After a back-and-forth first stanza, the Cadets struck first in the second period with two goals within 59 seconds. Middlebury captain **Owen Powers '20** responded quickly, netting his third goal of the season with 4:50 left in the period. In the third stanza, the Cadets added a third, sealing the win.

On Friday, the Panthers hosted Plattsburgh in their final non-conference game of the season, their fifth time playing in Kenyon Arena this month. Plattsburgh started hot, scoring an early goal 6:49 into the first period. They continued to find the back of the net in the second period, tallying two more goals halfway through the period. Just four minutes later, **Zach Shapiro '22** notched his sixth goal of the season, a team high. Joe Drabin of Plattsburgh earned the final laugh though, finding an open pocket merely 12 seconds after Shapiro's mark. Neither team was able to get on the board in the third period, as the game ended in a 4–1 defeat for the Panthers.

The men will compete on the road this weekend, facing off against Bowdoin on Friday, Jan. 24 and Colby on Saturday, Jan. 25. Game times are slated for 7:00pm and 3:00pm, respectively.

MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Women's basketball slips in conference play in Maine

By RAIN JI
Arts & Academics Editor

On Tuesday, Jan. 14, the Panthers and the Engineers fought an exciting and tightly-contested game. Middlebury led Worcester Polytechnic Institute with a 21–11 advantage with only a minute left on the clock in the first quarter. However, the Engineers showed no signs of backing down in the second and third quarters, the teams were neck and neck with Middlebury holding only a one point advantage in both quarters. **Kamryn You Mak '23** helped the Panthers gain a higher margin when she first defended a three and then connected from long range. As a walk-on athlete, You Mak felt welcomed by everyone on the team. "We played well together as a team — moving and sharing the ball, talking on defense, and helping each other out," she said.

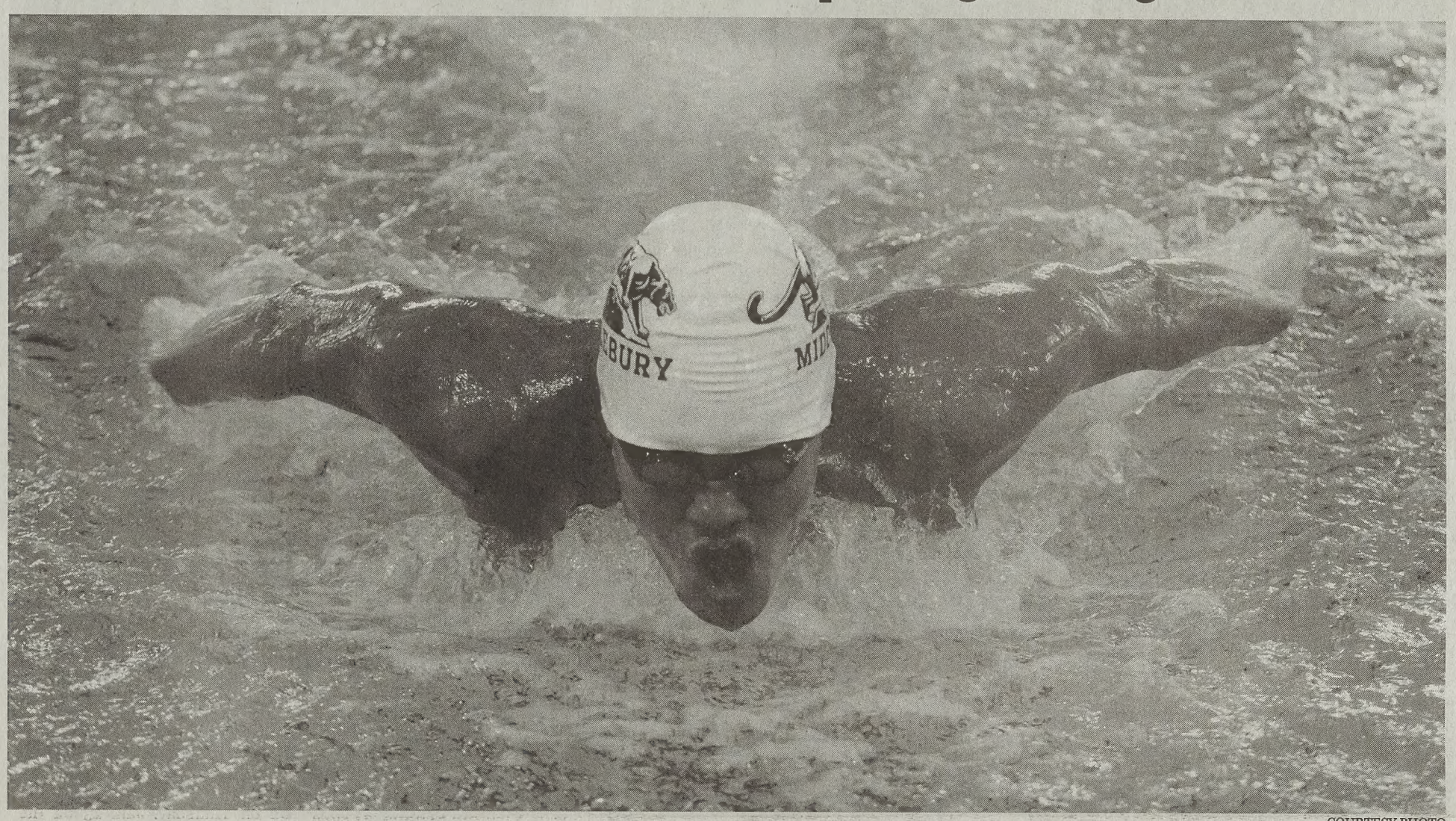
Middlebury's record suffered a blow from a loss to Colby on Friday, Jan. 17. The game remained a tie during the first two quarters until the Mules topped the Panthers by one point heading into the last quarter. During the fourth quarter, the Mules stepped up and tallied 16 out of 18 of the first points of the period. Although Middlebury tried to come back, the Panthers ultimately fell 48–62. **Betsy Knox '20** broke the blocked shots record held by **Catherine Harrison '19** and became the school's all-time leader with 109.

The Panthers were unable to bounce back from the loss as they also fell to Bowdoin the following day, Jan. 18. The team had a hard-fought battle with the second-ranked Polar Bears. Bowdoin had a six point advantage over Middlebury at the end of the first quarter, and its advantage grew larger as the second quarter was closed out with a score of 32–25. In the third quarter, Middlebury worked tirelessly to close the gap from 44–27 with five minutes left on the clock to 46–32. Unfortunately, Polar Bears eventually secured a 80–61 win over Middlebury. **Maya Davis '20** led the scoreboard with 21 points, followed by **Kira Waldman '20** with 13, **Reagan McDonald '23** with 11, and Knox who put up 10.

Middlebury will face Williams on the road on Saturday, Jan. 25, before returning home Friday, Jan. 31

ERICA BISAILLON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Swim & dive falls to Bates before posting two big home wins



COURTESY PHOTO

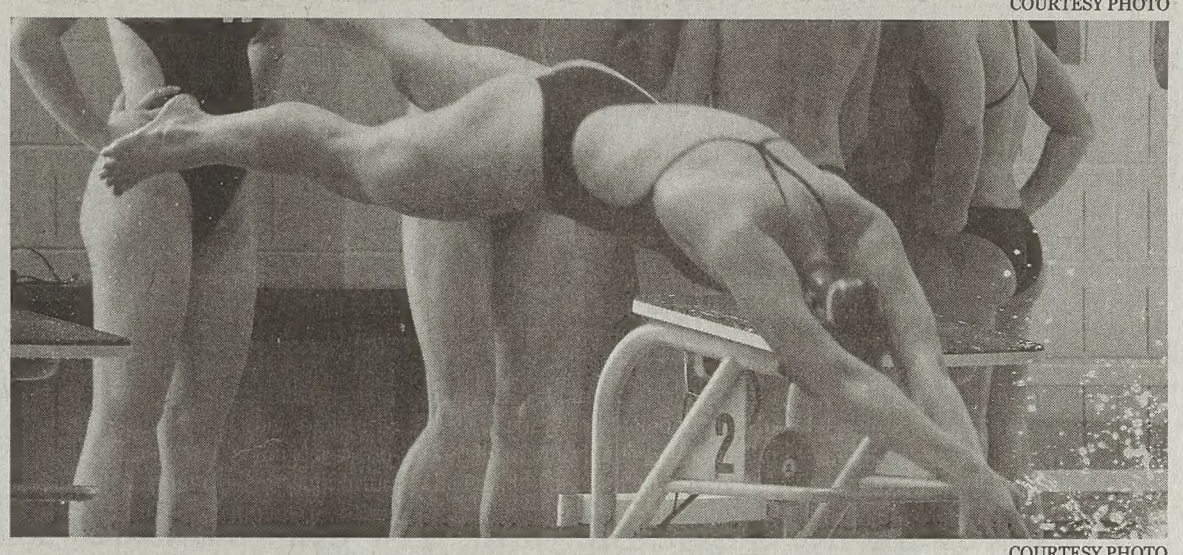
By MIGUEL ESPINOSA
Senior Sports Editor

The men's and women's swimming and diving teams were synchronized in their last three performances, with both acquiring wins against Union College and Clarkson University on Saturday, Jan. 18, and both taking losses against Bates College on Sunday, Jan. 12.

For the men's meet against Union and Clarkson, **Corey Jalbert '21** notched a victory in the 50-yard freestyle, clocking in with a time of 21.97. He also took first-place in the 100-yard freestyle with a time of 48.27. On the women's side, **Frances Vandermeer '20** also found victories at 50-yard and 100-yard freestyles, posting times of 26.64 and 58.54, respectively.

While the men's and women's squads lost to Bates, **Kacey Hertan '20** delivered a notable performance that Sunday, as she won the three-meter board with 226.15 points. **Aska Matsuda '22**, meanwhile, won the 1650 yard freestyle at 17:52.5.

The Panthers will travel to Hamilton College on Saturday, Jan. 25 to compete against their hosts and Williams College.

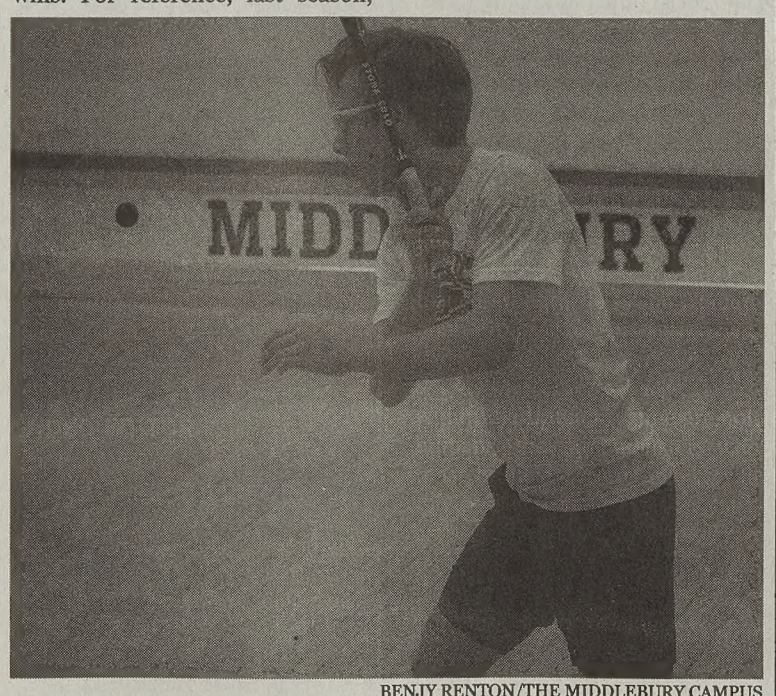


COURTESY PHOTO

Men's squash comes up short against higher ranked opponents

By MAX PADILLA
Photo Editor

In November, the Panthers started off strong. However, they struggled this month to bring home a win. Since Jan. 5, Middlebury has taken on 8 teams and walked away with only one win against Amherst this past Thursday, 9–0. They finished off the long weekend by losing 6–3 to Franklin and Marshall College and 5–4 to Brown. By this time last year, the men's team had competed in 12 matches and walked away with 10 wins. For reference, last season, the Panthers defeated Brown and Williams, two teams that beat them this month. It is worth noting that the order of the schools they played are very different from years past. The Panthers played most of the schools that they traditionally lose to earlier this season than last, and schools they generally beat, the Panthers have yet to play. The Panthers look to this weekend for another opportunity to compete. The team will take on Bates this Thursday, Jan. 23, who they have beaten at least the last three times they've played.



BENJY RENTON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Women's hockey's perfect season ended by Plattsburgh St.

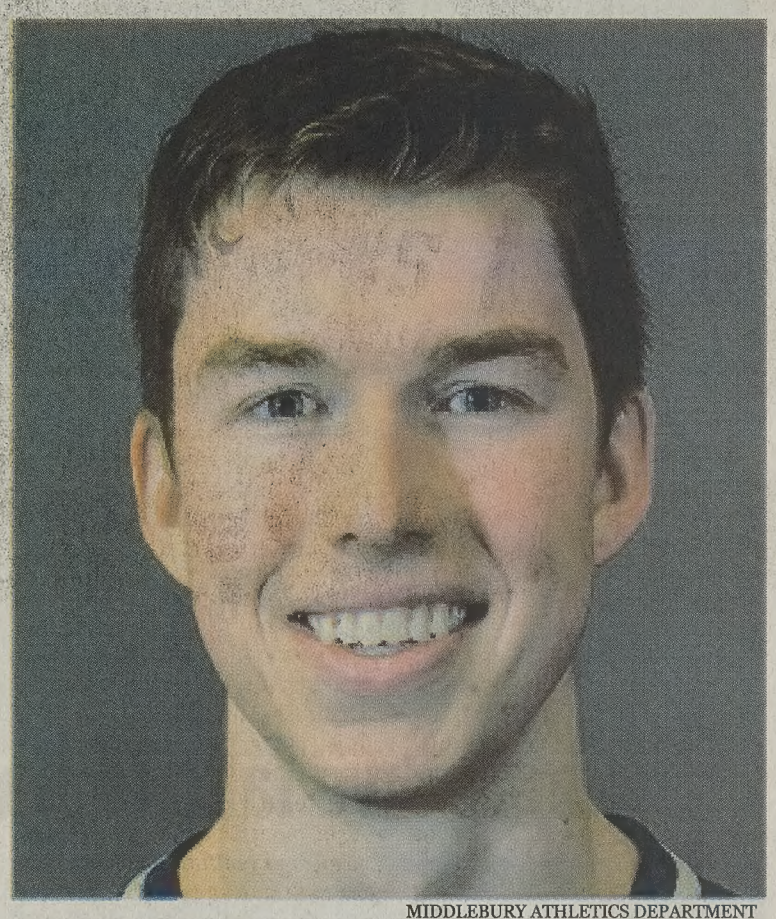
By MAX PADILLA
Photo Editor

Second-ranked women's hockey pushed their winning streak to seven-games before it was ended by first-ranked Plattsburgh State. On Saturday, Jan. 11, the Panthers triumphed over Endicott College 3–0. **Madie Leidt '21** won the race with the first goal in the first period and **Delanie Goniwiecha '23** scored twice in the second period. On Friday, Jan. 17 and Saturday, Jan. 18, Middlebury went 2–0 in two consecutive games against Wesleyan with a final score of 3–1 in both games. Leidt, hungry for the win, scored early in the game on Friday, and twice on Saturday.

The Panthers, however, suffered their first loss at the hands of Plattsburgh State, 4–1, on Tuesday, Jan. 21. Middlebury entered the second intermission down 3–0, but a goal by **Eva Hendrickson '22** a minute into the third period prevented them from being shutout.

Climbing the ladder: Nick Bermingham '20 goes from walk-on to top spot

COURTESY PHOTO



MIDDLEBURY ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT

By MIGUEL ESPINOSA
Senior Sports Editor

Few people play squash in Nick Bermingham's '20 hometown of Denver, Colorado. Until his freshman year of boarding school in Connecticut, when he needed a winter sport that would supplement his lacrosse-playing in the spring, the future Middlebury men's squash captain had not even heard of the game.

"I remember seeing the courts at Hotchkiss and being like, 'Oh, this is a cool racquet sport I haven't played before,'" said Bermingham, also a former tennis player. "I kind of fell in love with [squash] right away. I was always trying to play as much as I could."

On summer vacations, Bermingham would sneak into an old court 15 minutes away from his house and practice by himself. Many of Bermingham's prep school opponents, meanwhile, would receive instruction from private coaches and compete in tournaments throughout the northeast.

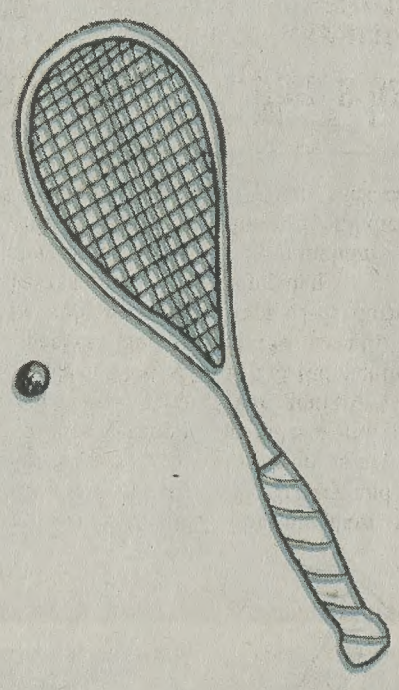
Today, Bermingham holds the top spot on the ladder for men's squash and plans to play professionally after graduation. Bermingham's ascendancy demanded that he climb a steep slope within a relatively short period of time, especially when considering his late entry into the sport and walk-on status. His professional aspirations suggest that he believes more has yet to be conquered.

But every journey must start somewhere.

In high school, Bermingham relied upon his height and athleticism to carry his success.

"I [had] a good first step and was able to retrieve [the ball] a lot when I was just picking up the game," he said. "It allowed me to stay within points with people that were better than me. In doing so, I was able to keep up, have more court time, and therefore have the opportunity to improve more as opposed to when having shorter rallies."

By junior year of high school, Bermingham wanted to continue his squash career into college, but the recruiting process seemed tilted against him.



"I played in no tournaments and most people my age had already built a resume that they were boasting," he said. "Coaches certainly weren't reaching out to me. I was reaching out to a couple of NESCAC and Ivy League coaches, kind of pleading that I'd be really good despite not having that resume."

Bermingham later developed a correspondence with Middlebury's men's squash coach, Mark Lewis.

"I said I was interested in going to school at Middlebury, first and foremost," Bermingham said. "I explained my experience with squash, such as picking it up late, being a former tennis player and anticipating that I'd improve as I progressed in college. I also told him that I was someone who was looking for specific pointers and tips because I was really just learning [squash] all on my own."

Bermingham was admitted to Middlebury and earned a spot on the team as a walk-on. He posted an 11–8 overall record his freshman year, going 9–3 at the ninth spot, 1–5 at the eighth position and 1–0 at the seventh. The men's squad went 11–8 during its 2016–2017 campaign.

Bermingham's raw athleticism, however, still dictated his game.

"When Nick came here, he was a very physical, fit and defensive player," said squash co-captain, Will Cembalest '20. "Essentially, he'd work around the other person's game and chase balls around as opposed to applying a lot of pressure and playing an attacking game. Especially because he's tall, he was able to reach for a lot of balls and stay at the point for a lot longer."

But come sophomore year, a hamstring injury threatened to interrupt Bermingham's progression. He played in only two games, recording one win and one loss.

Now, his battles were physical and mental.

"Squash has always been a huge competitive outlet for me," Bermingham said. "Having played sports for as long as I can remember, it's been part of a balanced life for me. Not having that outlet, not being able to run, have a good sweat, or feeling like I was healthy was really frustrating."

The injury forced the walk-on to improvise how he practiced. Although he couldn't run around the court, Bermingham was able to use his solo time to sharpen his technical skills. "Once I was healthy again, I had an element of the game that I didn't have before," he said.

By junior year, Bermingham was elected captain and he tallied a collective 13–8 record playing between the third and sixth positions. His teammates recognized his polished game.

"His shot accuracy [was] better," said Thomas Wolpow '20, who played on the squash team from freshman to junior year. "If he wanted to put the ball on the front right and he didn't want the ball to bounce back a lot, he was able to do that. If he wanted to send the guy to the back left back corner, he was able to do that with more precision and consistency."

Bermingham's leadership also drew the praise of his teammates.

"Nick has a fantastic work ethic, is very dedicated to the sport, and always shows up early to practice," Cembalest said. "He embodies what a growing athlete is: someone that's always looking to improve, cheering for players and wishing the best for the team, especially when it gets competitive between the players".

For this season, the team named Bermingham captain once again.

Men's squash is currently ranked 19th nationally.

When February rolls around, and the Panthers close out their final game, Bermingham won't be hanging up his racquet for the last time; after graduation, he plans to play professionally.

"Given how much I think about squash and how competitive I am with myself, I don't think I could, in good conscience, just call it quits my senior year of college," said Bermingham. "I feel like I have still so much more to give and I don't want to wonder in 20 years what could've been."

Bermingham's late introduction to squash also leaves him hungry for more.

"Everybody on the team has been playing since they were really young, and I haven't," he said. "I don't think it'd be fair for myself to just walk away, and be like, 'Oh well, I was good for what was given'".

The Denver native intends on travelling to France for his professional career. It appears that his ascendancy in squash keeps pointing eastward.

Cartoon by Sarah Fagan.

Alpine and nordic skiing snag second at Harvard

By CAPTAIN RUDOLPH
Sports Writer

The alpine and nordic teams fared well at the Harvard Carnival as they both finished in second place. "The Carnival loss has definitely left the team hungry and ready to go for next weekend. We're all very excited for what we can do in the rest of the season." said **Nina Reichhelm '23**.

The growing excitement is evident as racers from both the men's and women's squads are putting in some high finishes and fast times. For the women's 5k skate, **Alexandra Lawson '21** earned the fastest time amongst all skiers, clocking in a time of 13:44:1. In the men's 20k Classic Mass Start, **Peter Wolter '21** landed in third place at 54:23.5 on Friday, Feb. 2020.

Looking toward their home Carnival at the Middlebury Snowbowl, the team hopes to repeat their success after winning it all last year.

The future looks bright for these racers, especially first-year **Ali Nullmeyer '23**, who raced in the World Cup in Flachau, placing in a career-best 16th.

EMMA STAPLETON/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Men's basketball holds strong 16–2 record after split weekend

By MICHAEL SEGEL
Sports Writer

The Panthers took on Albertus Magnus, a team in the midst of an 11-game winning streak at the time, on Tuesday, January 14th. This series of victories ended as Midd landed an 84–76 victory over the Falcons. The Panthers trailed by six early, but turned the game around to own an eight-point lead at the end of the half. Middlebury led by as many as 21 points in the second half, which would be cut down to seven late in the game but the Panthers held on for the eight-point victory. **Max Bosco '20** led Middlebury's offense, putting up 23 points. **Matt Folger '20**, **Tommy Eastman '21**, **Jack Farrell '21**, and **Ryan Cahill '21** also turned in double digit point performances.

Middlebury suffered their second loss with an 89–82 loss to an undefeated Colby on Friday, January 17th. The contest began in back and forth fashion with Colby taking a 9–2 lead. Middlebury would comeback to within a point before Colby soared to a ten point advantage fueled by an 8–0 stretch. The Panthers closed out the half on a 7–2 run to cut the deficit to five. This pattern extended into the second half as Colby got back out a double digit lead, which the Panthers cut to four, only to have the Mules stretch the lead out to eleven. In a furious comeback bid, the Panthers sailed into the lead thanks to a 15–2 run. This didn't last long as Colby turned the game around again to take a ten point lead that they didn't surrender this time, and Midd lost by seven. In the defeat, Farrell led the squad with a 20 point performance Eastman followed with 14 points, and Folger added 12 rebounds.

The Panthers were quick to make up with an offensive onslaught on Saturday, January 18th against Bowdoin. The game remained tight throughout the first half, going into the break with Middlebury on top 40–34. The Panthers hit the ground running in the second half going on a 31–12 run fueled by three three-pointers by Cahill and two each from Folger and Kornaker. Bowdoin went on a 14–4 run but Midd's lead only grew from there and they soared to a 93–71 victory. It was the fifth time Midd surpassed the 90-point mark this season and it was led by a 19 point effort from Bosco, 17 points from Eastman, and 16 points and six rebounds from Farrell. Cahill delivered 13 points off the bench. Folger led the team with seven rebounds and Kornaker had eight assists to lead the squad. Middlebury returns to action on Saturday against Williams at 3 p.m. at Midd.

MICHAEL BORENSTEIN/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS